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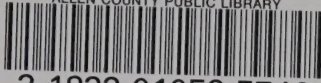


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THE CHILDREN OF TODAY
THE PIONEERS OF TOMORROW

by

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN



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THE STORY of
WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN

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1765876

FOREWORD

WYANDOTTE, Michigan, is one of America's typical small cities located approximately eleven miles south of Detroit on the Detroit River. Like all small cities and villages situated on waterways, it has been baptized by the commercial character of the water to the sole purpose of promoting the economic and industrial welfare of the state and country.

Nature has been kind to its people likewise in providing boundless natural resources for the development of a variety of heavy industries, the demands of which in turn have shaped its citizens into an industrious, rugged, and strong populace. The people who came from England, Germany, Ireland, France, Italy, Poland, Hungary, and other slavic countries to help build the town brought with them the characteristics of clean living, morality, and frugality. With these wholesome attributes, the City of Wyandotte has won many victories in the pursuance of life, liberty, and happiness.

It is a natural consequence then that the story of a city which has offered so much satisfaction to its inhabitants should inspire a few with the desire to share its experiences with others.

Gerard Hungerford, Frank Eberts, and William Orr were the ones who felt the time had come for the story of their city to be told. Gerard Hungerford had just been installed as president of the Wyandotte Rotary Club for the year 1952-1953, and Frank Eberts was sharing the responsibilities of the vice-presidency. They discussed their idea with the Rotary membership who agreed that such an enterprise was a worthy and ambitious interpretation of the Rotary principle, "Service above self."

The next step in programming was to find a medium to put the book into reality. Across the road from the club's meeting hall stood the Public Library which had been gathering and preserving Wyandotte lore and history for some years past. The Reverend William F. A. Simon, Mrs. Roy Stack, Mrs. Frederick Raubolt, and Wilfred Newell, Library Commissioners, and Hazel Adair, Chief Librarian, concurred with the inquiring Rotarians that the facilities of the Local History

Department should be made available for this worthy civic project. Mrs. Joseph DeWindt, Local History Librarian, was appointed to direct book production. It now became the task of the resulting cooperative book committee to translate thoughts into action.

There were many considerations to discuss before words could be put through a typewriter. Each member brought a special contribution to the conference table. Gerard Hungerford brought the appreciation of a newcomer for the city which had been his home and had offered him business opportunities for twenty-five years. He felt that Wyandotte had something, if told to the world, that should be an inspiration to many. Mr. Eberts represented the devotion of the native citizen for his beloved home town, the place where down memory lane he had run barefooted to the river's edge for a swim, thumbed readin', writin', and 'rithmetic books in the local schools, prayed in the neighborhood church, courted, married, and reared a family, and where he and his brothers had continued to find a happy and satisfactory way to earn their daily needs in a business in which their father had engendered the citizen's confidence as the first coal dealer. His heartfelt desire was that all the world should know the greatness he knew existed in Wyandotte.

William Orr spoke as a member of the third generation of families who had exemplified citizenship at its best. He had inherited traditions which he had no reason to understand but which he instinctively recognized as good. His grandfather, William Orr, had come to the city in 1888 from Scotland to work in the shipyards and had transferred his interest later to the development and success of the Michigan Alkali Company as Superintendent under Captain John B. Ford. Stephen Orr, his father, had continued in the position and influence of the grandfather, William, in the Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation and had received as his rich reward the respect and admiration of both labor and industrial management for his tolerant and wise counsel and understanding in industrial relations. Stephen Orr has long been considered a friend to the common man with a problem. The Orr family had found Wyandotte a town of many friends. To young William, a book about Wyandotte should remind the average citizen of the common man's important role in the city's welfare and happiness.

It was then decided the book would proudly record the events of this city which are also typical of all American cities and which would testify to the purposes and achievements of the people; give a better understanding of the community to the newcomers who were meeting Wyandotters for the first time; promote a basis of better citizenship in

the youth; and which would applaud and give pleasure to the pioneers who had contributed so much.

The stage was now set for the production phase of the physical book. Since the city had long reserved the incorporation date, 1867, for an anniversary occasion, the book committee decided to select December, 1854, the date when Wyandotte became a registered entity in the history of Michigan, as the historic event which the book would recognize through publication.

Mrs. Winifred Stoddard LeBar, a descendant of one of the first families of Wyandotte and a recognized writer, was invited to share the woes and joys of book production. She helped to gather details on the soldiers in Wyandotte history, associations' contributions, church and school details, assisting in tape recordings and by sharing her intimate experiences in written accounts on village life, social life and customs, and the pioneer classroom.

There entered the story at this point the manager of the College Press, Berrien Springs, Michigan, who found it worth his time to visit Wyandotte. He is a man with forty years of experience in the world of print, a college instructor. Fortunately, he believed also that the "ideals, dreams, and purposes of the human heart determine the destiny of man and nations."

William Orr's inherited faith in the average man and Gerard Hungerford's and Frank Eberts' confidence in the industrial executives added a score of silent partners to the production of the book.

There were Anna Girardin and Elizabeth Bowbeer who placed their own love and devotion of Wyandotte and its historic lore at the disposal of the book committee. Anna Girardin had been the first to offer her private collection of Wyandotte history to the library in 1945 to form a basis for future development, and she was the first to reveal the value of the library's file of tape recordings through her death, September 7, 1954. Elizabeth Bowbeer had been the first to loan her photographic negatives of old Wyandotte to be developed as a permanent collection in the history department. During the year and a half of book making, both women were tireless and helpful at any hour of the day or night that a fact needed verifying or clarifying, oftentimes tracing a puzzling reference to its solution. Watkin Benjamin was ever alert to the shading of details which might turn an insignificant observation into an important fact. There were also many citizens who had realized the importance of the work the library had undertaken in preserving the history of the community and had contributed their

interesting and oftentimes valuable mementoes, thus making it possible to write a story of the community through library cooperation.

The completed book is presented as a tribute to the faith of the local history donors: Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Adair, Mrs. Clare Allan, John Bacon, Watkin Benjamin, Blanche Bigler, May Bolton, Mrs. Norman Bowbeer, Archibald Brighton, Otto Bufe, Mrs. Robert Burrell, Philip J. M. Clark, T. Clark, Fletcher Conwell, H. H. Coomer, Helen Marie Davis, Carrow DeVries, Mrs. Margaret Domal, Jeremiah Drennan family, Frank Eberts, Mrs. E. N. Fairchild, Etta Franklin, George F. Giasson, Sr., Mrs. Henry Girardin, Mr. and Mrs. D'Alton Haven, Miss Evelyn Howe, Effie and Eva Hurst, Mrs. Isabel Hurst, Charles Johnson, Mrs. Fred Johnson, Miss Catherine Jones, John Kaul, Willard Kinde, Mayme King, Mrs. William Knapp, Reverend W. A. Krych, Hazen Kunz, Ann Labadie, Mrs. Winifred LeBar, Mrs. Joseph LeClair, Claude Lewis, William Liddle, Mrs. Allan McClenahan, Bernard McKee, John McKnight, Sarah Maddock, William Mayfield, Mary Megges, Mrs. Anna Mehlhose, Ida Thon Melody, May Milkins, Archie Milne, Peter Musho, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Nixon, Everette Payette, James L. Raubolt, Mrs. Iva Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rouse, June Schroeder, Carl F. Schroeder and family, William Smitka, Mrs. William T. Snow, Cleo Taylor, Tuesday Study Club, Fred Van Alstyne, Ford Wagar, Mrs. Lillian White, *Wyandotte News-Herald* (Strauss Gantz), Mrs. Ella Youd, and John Youd.

The money to pay for this project came from the business and industrial executives of the community, who were keeping faith with their pioneer forerunners in promoting civic projects.

**List of Contributors to the Fund
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John Youd Agency

Truly the authorship "We" (the people) had been wisely chosen.

The day arrived when the printer returned to Wyandotte. He placed a formidable brief case upon the conference table and with a smile said: "Gentlemen, you have a book; it is ready to print, and it is now my turn to sweat." The faith of one man in the spirit of others had been fulfilled.

The time had at long last arrived for dreams to be laid aside in the reality of the formal announcement required by the dignity of the first book to have been published on the Wyandotte story. The Rotary Club of Wyandotte, Michigan, and the Bacon Memorial Public Library present with pleasure to the citizens of Wyandotte, and to every American who turns off the alarm clock, grabs a lunchbag and hurries to a factory, this, your life, the American way.

CONTENTS

Part I. Our People

	Page
1. Wyandott Indians	
Arrival in the territory	3
Meaning of the Indian name	4
Village of Maquaqua	5
Home life	5
Treaties with the white man	6
Last of the tribe	8
2. First Settlers	
John Clark family	9
George Payne	14
William Case	15
John Biddle	16
Naming the town of Wyandotte	18
3. Nationality Groups	
Nationality periods	21
Nationality locations	21
Displaced persons	22

Part II. Our Village Shaped Its Destiny

4. A Village Is Born	
Eureka Iron and Steel Company parentage	29
Legal statement concerning land purchase by Eureka Iron and Steel	29
Eber Ward	30
Description of the first years of the village	33
Streets, laying out and naming of	35
5. Community Development	
Housing	41
Historic houses	47
Historic buildings	49
(City Hall 1880, Old Brown School, Marx Theatre, and Wyandotte Savings Bank)	

Mercantile interests	58
First stores	59
Stores 1867	66
Stores 1870	66
Stores 1880	69
Stores 1890-1954	77
Co-operatives	79
Transportation and Communication	89
Water	89
(Passenger service, river routes, lighthouses, and industrial transportation)	
Land	101
(Railways, express, and stage service, bicycles, street cars, interurban, automobiles, and buses)	
Air	123
Postal service	123
Telephone	128
Public Health	132
Early doctors	132
Diseases	146
Department of Public Health	150
Hospitals	151
Ambulance service	157
Cemeteries	158
6. Municipal Government	
First election	162
Aldermanic government	164
John S. Van Alstyne	165
Fire Department	169
Police Department	173
Commission government	174
Councilmanic government	175
Elective city officials 1867-1954	179
7. Civic Improvements	
Description of village life 1855-1880	194
Civic leaders	199
(John S. Van Alstyne, Jerome H. Bishop, Cap- tain John B. Ford, and Kirby Brothers)	
Women's contributions to civic improvement	203

Chamber of Commerce	210
Junior Chamber of Commerce	212
Water	214
Electricity	215
Gas service	218
Annexation of territory	219
Civic improvement associations	222
City Planning Commission	223

Part III. Rewards of Freedom

8. Industry and Business

Eureka Iron Works	227
Wyandotte trademark	229
Shipbuilding	236
Silver smelting	249
Jerome Holland Bishop Company	249
River Park Hotel	251
D. H. Burrell Hoop and Stave Company	252
Doyle Hoop and Stave Company	254
Hopkins Sash and Blind	255
Agricultural Works	255
Peninsular Stove	255
Shelley Hoop and Stave Works	255
John L. Whipple Flour Mill	255
Theodore Gray Flour Mill	255
Girardin Carriage Factory	256
Wyandotte Furniture Company	256
Haneke Cigars	256
Beals and Selkirk Trunk Factory	256
Marx Brewery	257
Zaddock Brothers	257
Howe and Schultz Soft Drinks	257
Wyandotte Coca-Cola Bottling Company	259
Michigan Alkali	259
Pennsylvania Salt	262
Bakelite Corporation	262
Sharples Solvents	263
E. I. Dupont de Nemours	263
Archer-Daniels Midland	263

Detroit Brass and Malleable	263
McCord Corporation	263
Great Lakes Manufacturing	263
Diamond Screw Products	263
Morris Birnbaum	263
Sauer Cooperage Company	263
All Metal Products	263
Wyandotte Paints	264
Fisheries	264
Banks	264
(First Commercial Bank, People's State Bank, First National, Wyandotte Savings, and Amer- ican State)	
Credit Unions	265
9. Churches	
First churches	267
Civic leaders' role in religious life of city	272
(Eber Ward, John B. Ford, and J. H. Bishop)	
Architectural styles	275
Charter members of churches	276
Ministers' influence on religious life of the city	277
Sermons on dancing	279
Co-operative endeavors in religious life	283
Church list, 1900-1954	283
10. Schools	
First Schools	285
First High School	286
Description of school life	286
Athletics in high school	287
Curriculum of high school	294
Roosevelt High School	296
Superintendent of Schools	297
New schools, names and dates	298
Parochial Schools	300
(St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's, Mt. Carmel, St. Helen's, St. Stanislaus, St. Elizabeth, and Trinity Lutheran)	
11. Newspapers and Libraries	
First newspaper	305

Wyandotte Herald	306
Dolly Haven	306
Newspapers, 1900-1954	308
Public Library	309
12. Recreation	
Pioneer entertainment	317
Holidays	326
Baseball	328
Football	333
Boating	334
Recreation Department	342
Parks	343
Playgrounds	346
Local athletic awards	347
13. Associations	
Community service groups	349
Cultural and literary associations	356
Fraternal and benevolent societies	361
Military organizations	365
Nationality groups	372
Political organizations	374
Recreational organizations	375
Religious organizations	380
Social welfare societies	382
 Part IV. The World Has Been Our Community	
14. Military History	
French and Indian Wars	387
War of 1812	388
Civil War	390
Spanish American War	394
World War I	396
World War II	402
Civilian Defense	405
15. City Achievements	
Industrial contributions	429
Inventions	430
Military importance	434
Educational achievements	434
Sportsmanship	435

Writers	437
Musicians	438
Artists	439
Miscellaneous fields of endeavor	440
Political contributions	441
John C. Cahalan	442
National and State legislative representatives from Wyandotte	442
Spirit of the city	443

Part V. Epilogue

16. Chronology	449
Sources of Information	455

PICTURE CREDITS

All illustrations are from the permanent collection of the Bacon Memorial Public Library. Originals were given to the collection by the individuals named on the right.

Page

Frontispiece—Bacon Memorial Public Library

Indians

Indian Village	Drawing by Pat Warrow	5
Indian Treaty	Anna Asbahr Girardin	7

First Settlers

Portrait Major Biddle	Burton Collection	16
Map From Abstract at Property 640		
Forest		17

Community Development

Eureka Iron and Steel—Panorama	Jeremiah Drennan family	28
Portrait of Eber Ward	Julius Clauss	31

Housing

Detroit Exchange Hotel	Bert Flock	40
Bolton House	Philip Clark	45
Bishop House	Anna Asbahr Girardin	45
Girardin Homestead	Anna Asbahr Girardin	45

Buildings

Down River Federal Savings Building	Anna Asbahr Girardin	49
Old Brown School	<i>Wyandotte Herald</i>	52
Wyandotte Savings Bank	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer	57

Mercantile

Portrait First Druggist, Charles Thomas,		
Senior	Anna Asbahr Girardin	59
Interior Thomas Drug	Anna Asbahr Girardin	59
Bittorf Family	Mary Bittorf Megges	61
Bittorf Family Picnic, Pallbearers' Wa-		
gon in Background	Mary Bittorf Megges	61
Brohl Bakery Wagon	Mrs. John Kaul	62
Portrait Henry Thon	Mae Thon Stiles	63
Nelson Dupy in Buggy	Frank Flock	67
Tacke Delivery Truck	Philip Clark	70

Loeffler's Store	May Bolton	71
Thiede's Barber Shop	Anna Asbahr Girardin	71
Kaul's Department Store	John Kaul	74

Transportation and Communication

Portrait of Captain Bolton	May Bolton	91
Steamer Wyandotte at Oak Street Dock and Frank Marx	Mary Marx Nichols	92
Steamer Douglas	Katherine DeSana Genthe	94
Mama Juda Lighthouse	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer	99
Soncrant Early Truck	Soncrant family	106
Dwight Baxter in Automobile on Bid- dle Avenue	Ella Youd Baxter and family	111
Original Built Car by Dwight Baxter	Ella Youd Baxter and family	112
Pardo First Garage	William Pardo	113
Street Car on Biddle Avenue	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer	116
Arlington Hotel and Laying of the Street Car Tracks	Frank Flock	117
Post Office Under E. N. Clark, Post- master	Archibald Brighton	125
Post Office Interior, Fred Johnson, Post- master	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer	125

Public Health

Portrait of James Cahalan		137
Wyandotte Sanitarium	Philip Clark	139
Dr. Bowbeer's Office	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer	144
Emergency Hospital	Leroy Adair	152
Wyandotte General Hospital		154

Government

Portrait of John S. Van Alstyne	Mayor's Gallery City Hall	165
Volunteer Fire Department	Bert Flock	169
Government Officials 1888	Mary Marx Nichols	172
First City Hall	<i>Peninsular State Magazine</i> , Oct. 1890	172
First Commission Government Official's	Charles H. Marr family	175

Civic Improvements

Portrait of Jerome Holland Bishop	Mayor's Gallery City Hall	200
Street Scene Old Wyandotte Biddle Av- enue Looking North From Sycamore "Detroit" publication 1890		204
Street Scene Modern Wyandotte Biddle Avenue Looking North From Sycamore		205
Street Scene Old Wyandotte Biddle Av- enue Looking South From Oak Street "Detroit" publication 1890		206

Street Scene Modern Wyandotte	
Biddle Avenue Looking South From	
Oak Street	207
Group of Business Men	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer 210
Laying Crosswalks on Biddle Avenue	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer 213
First Water Works	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer 215
Municipal Light Plant	216
Annexation Program	Mae Thon Stiles 221

Business and Industry

Articles of Association, Eureka Iron	
Company	226
Eureka Iron and Steel Explosion 1888	Julius Clauss 234
Dismantling of Eureka Iron and Steel	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer 235
Shipbuilding Plant	Silas Farmer's <i>History of</i> <i>Detroit</i> 1890 237
Shipbuilders	Pen drawings by Moses Widner Lacy 238
Launching of a Boat	Archibald Brighton 239
Bishop Company Personnel Group	<i>Wyandotte News-Herald</i> 250
River Park Hotel	Everett Payette 251
Burrell Company	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer 253
Burrell Company Office	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer 253
Gray's Flouring Mill	Martha Gray Peters 256
Michigan Alkali Factory Group	Ella Youd Baxter and Family 258
Offre Force Michigan Alkali 1890	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer 259

Churches

First Methodist and Presbyterian on	
Biddle Avenue	Watkin 'Benjamin 268
St. Patrick's and St. Charles	Father Clarence Dougherty 269
St. Stephen's Church	Anna Asbahr Girardin 271
Congregational Church	Anna Asbahr Girardin 273
First Methodist Interior	Sarah Maddock 280

Schools

School Class, Old Brown School	Anna Asbahr Girardin 287
First Ward School	William Liddle 292
Portrait of Kate Gartner	Fannie Sanders Adair 295

Newspapers and Libraries

Haven Print Shop	305
Portrait Nellie Briggs—first librarian	Eva and Effie Hurst 312
Carnegie Building	Philip Clark 313

Recreation

Maple Hall	Mrs. John Kaul 319
Arbeiter Hall Party	Frank Sunderland 322

"Forty Acres" Race Track	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer	329
Baseball Team 1907	<i>Wyandotte News-Herald</i>	330
First Football Team	Mae Thon Stiles	333
Trophies and Medals 1892 Boating		
Championship Crew	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer	337
Recreation Commission 1950	Peter Musho	343
Michigan Alkali Clubhouse	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer	344
Associations		
Fathers' Club	Anna Asbahr Girardin	350
Tuesday Study Club Group	Mrs. Roy Patton	359
Military History and Ending of the Book		
Federal Square	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer	399
Mark Bacon on Biddle Avenue	Elizabeth Fairchild Bowbeer	402
Mrs. William Bolton, Portrait	May Bolton	445

PART I

OUR PEOPLE, *by virtue of their inalienable American heritage, brought forth from savagery to a state of modern industrialism a city that reflects the dignity of man in the sight of God and his rewards of freedom under a democratic philosophy of government.*

CHAPTER 1

WYANDOTT INDIANS

1730-1842

"When the Indians pulled their canoes onto this shore two centuries ago they had a word for this district. It was 'des-cre-chas-ka' and it meant 'Here is everything.' "

Charles Hansel, Secretary
Wyandotte Chamber of Commerce,
1939.

FROM the time Columbus first sighted the American continent and a group of people with red-colored skins waiting suspiciously on the shores to greet him, the story of every city, village, and hamlet, including our city of Wyandotte, starts with the same phrase, "Once upon a time there were Indians . . ."

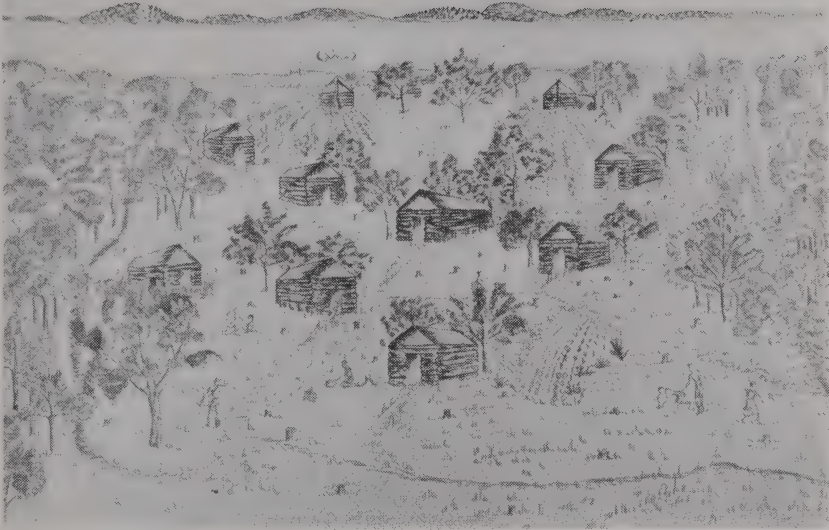
It was about 1732 that the remnant tribe of Hurons calling themselves Wyandotts followed Cadillac and the French to Detroit and decided to settle along the banks of the Detroit River. Originally, the Wyandotts had been a part of the Iroquois nation living in Montreal, Quebec, and the Georgian Bay region of Canada, but for unknown reasons other than folklore, the Iroquois had warred continually on their brother tribes and had driven them into Michigan and Wisconsin. The French had been kind to the harassed and persecuted tribes, giving them shelter and protection. It was natural then for these grateful Indians to stay close to their French friends—the settlers, missionaries, and traders—and to adopt names and customs of the French.

In this migration the Wyandott, the most hated by the Iroquois, followed the French southward from Mackinac in order to escape as far as possible the Iroquois atrocities. Here along the Detroit River was a stretch of high bank free from marshy front. To the Indian refugees this spot offered easy access to the drinking water in the river, good fishing and hunting, and an ideal spot where they could easily cross to Canada to contact their friends and relatives established in a village in the Amherstburg region. Furthermore, this area was

deeply wooded and it abounded in fish, muskrats, deer, bear, partridges, pigeons, nuts, and fruit. The soil was fertile, sandy loam, ideal for agricultural pursuits. In these deep woods far from Mackinac and the war-mad Iroquois, the Wyandott scouts felt their families could find peace to live the agricultural life.

There are no exact records to tell us how the Indians lived here. All we know is that the territorial holdings extended from Gibraltar and the Flat Rock region through Wyandotte of the present day; and that these Indians were of the Huron tribe named by the French from the word "Hure" because of the peculiar way of wearing their hair pompadour style with short bristles. The name "Wendot" or "Wyandott" was the aboriginal name of the Tobacco Hurons. "Huron" was a later name. "Quendot," "Gendat," and finally "Wyandott" were also the interpretative spellings by the French, meaning "They were islanders."

Since we do know the general characteristics of the Huron tribes in social life and customs, we can imagine that after the location was selected the Indians, following the Huron custom, busied themselves cutting a clearing and constructing their village—Oak to Eureka, Biddle Avenue to the River. These Wyandotts, being one of the most advanced in civilization of the many American tribes, preferred a village type of life with regular streets similar to those of the white man. Their homes were bark-covered cabins without windows and separated from one another about three or four yards for fear of fire. In many instances, long lodges of bark were constructed to house several families, apartment style. One fire spot in the center of the lodge served as a community heating and cooking unit. For safety, palisades or stockades surrounded the village. Here in Wyandotte, far from the enemy, protected by deep, virgin forests, somewhat isolated from adjacent tribes, and on friendly terms with the neighboring white man, we are led to believe that this village was not walled or palisaded. Mr. Oscar Warrow, a descendant of the last Wyandott chief in this area, states that the Indians here were very much like our "suburbanites" of today living in Old Homestead and West Wyandotte. They were "suburbanites" to the Gibraltar community, the Head Village of this territory and Amherstburg, Canada. Government affairs were conducted in the Main Village, Gibraltar, the headquarters for the Council House, Archives, and International Council Fires. Therefore, we do not believe either that in this auxiliary group, apartment lodges for large numbers of families were constructed but rather small, individual cabins, patterned from the colonial log shelters, were placed compactly



Indian Village of Maquaqua

Imaginary conception of the village at Wyandotte drawn from original descriptions of Huron Indian customs by Patricia Warrow, a descendant of the Wyandott Indians.

in a circular enclosure. In building the cabins, poles were driven into the ground and joined one to another by making them bend over the top, and were then covered with tree bark. There were no windows and generally only one door opening. For light, aside from that of the fire, torches made of little, horn-shaped rolls of bark were used. As a central meeting place for feasting and entertaining visitors, a larger lodge was constructed in the center of the village. There were few furnishings in the cabins. It was the Indian custom to live out-of-doors as much as possible, even sleeping beside the fire on mattresses made of bark and boughs covered with rush mats. To this Wyandott village was given the name "Maquaqua," or "Monguagon" in the French.

With the village established, planting began. Corn, squashes, and sun-flowers were cultivated, the last for their oil. The Wyandotts tanned and dressed hides of animals and used crude leather neatly and skillfully in the preparation of clothing and bedding. They fashioned mattresses for their beds and other needed articles from reeds and bark. Household duties, spinning hemp, and making mats and pottery were the tasks of

the women. The men occupied themselves with constructing the cabins, carrying on trade, hunting and fishing. Manners of dress varied in several kinds and styles. Skins were designed like Egyptian mantles for winter, and leggings of skins were often used. Within the village limits the mantles could be removed, leaving only the waist cord and breech clout as apparel. The Hurons were considered remarkable for their modesty, and it is believed that full dress was observed except within the village limits on warm days. In the early years of the nineteenth century it is evident that the Wyandotts in this area dressed similarly to their white neighbors and used furniture in their cabin homes.

Chief Walk-in-the-Water headed the Monguagon Village. His totem sign was the turtle, an animal that walks in the water. A spacious lodge was built outside of the village on what is now the west side of Biddle Avenue some distance north of Trenton. It has been reported he was a leader of commanding figure and entirely without ferocity, of strong mind and social common sense. Always friendly, he was willing to be sociable and helpful to the whites. Under such leadership the village life could prosper and leave its mark of democratic culture upon the land. Huron and Iroquois nationalities were noted especially for their democratic form of government with representation by clans and voting as free men around a central council fire. Woman suffrage played a large part in government. "The government of these tribes was vested by law in definite numbers of executive officers called 'Chiefs' who were chosen by the child-bearing women and organized by law or council decree into councils for legislative and judicial purposes." Descendance and inheritance rights were legalized from the female line.

Except for the intervening colonial war activities when the Wyandotts were forced through circumstances and treaty commitments with the Potawatomi living in the Ecorse area (Pontiac Conspiracy) to engage in war against the English, the Wyandott Indians lived in peace with the few white farmers, exchanging products and favors mutually.

The Indians liked their homes in the Down River Area, and it was a sad time for them when the Government through a series of treaties, 1789-1808-1818-1842, decided to push them farther west. Walk-in-the-Water petitioned eloquently that "they had peacefully cultivated the land they had lived on from time immemorial. They allege that they have built valuable houses and improvements on the land and have learned

¹Hodge, Frederick, *Handbook of American Indians*, Gov. Printing Office, 1912, Part I, p. 584.

1888

St. Mary's, Mich., 1818.

Articles of a treaty made and concluded, at St. Mary's, in the State of Ohio, between Lewis Cass, Commissioner of the Indian Affairs, thereto specially authorized by the President of the United States, and the chiefs and warriors of the Wyandott tribe of Indians.

ART. I. The Wyandott tribe of Indians hereby cede to the United States all the right reserved to them in two tracts of land, in the territory of Michigan, one including the village called Brownstown, and the other the village called Miquama, formerly in the possession of the Wyandott tribe of Indians, containing in the whole not more than five thousand acres of land; which two tracts of land were reserved for the use of the said Wyandott tribe of Indians, and their descendants, for the term of fifty years, agreeably to the provisions of the act of Congress, passed February 28, 1809, and entitled "An act for the relief of certain Algonquin and Wyandott Indians."

ART. II. In consideration of the preceding cession, the United States will reserve, for the use of the said Wyandott Indians, sections numbered twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six, thirty-four, thirty-five, thirty-six, twenty-seven, and that part of section numbered twenty-two, which contains eight acres, and lies on the south side of the river Huron, being in the fourth township, south of the base line, and in the ninth range east of the first meridian, in the territory of Michigan, and containing four thousand nine hundred and ninety-six acres; and the said tract of land shall be reserved for the use of the said Wyandott Indians, and their descendants, and be secured to them in the same manner, and on the same terms and conditions, as is provided in relation to the Indians, by the first section of the before-mentioned act of Congress, except that the said Wyandott Indians, and their descendants, shall hold the said land as long as they or their descendants shall occupy the same.

In testimony whereof, the said Lewis Cass, commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the chiefs and warriors of the said Wyandott tribe of Indians, have hereunto set their hands, at St. Mary's, Ohio, this twentieth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

Lewis Cass,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, his x mark,
James H. Hays, or Hoyer, his x mark,
James H. Hays, or Hoyer, his x mark,
James H. Hays, or Hoyer, his x mark,
James H. Hays, or Hoyer, his x mark,
James H. Hays, or Hoyer, his x mark,

Amquod, or Half King, his x mark,
Arona, or Charles Boy, his x mark,
Parvino, or between the Loes, his x mark.

In presence of --
A. A. Murray, Jun. secretary to the commission,
John Johnson, Indian agent,
A. F. Wickens, S. I. A.
T. F. Miller, interpreter,
John Connor,
Rev. Father.

St. Mary's Treaty, 1818

By this treaty the Indians withdrew from the territory of Wyandotte to a reservation near Flat Rock, Michigan.

the use of the plow, etc., and they pray for a title which shall prevent their being dispossessed at the end of fifty years as provided by the act of Congress."² In response to this plea the Government in 1818 negotiated a treaty granting a tract of 4,996 acres of land on the Huron River ". . . to be held by them as long as they and their descendants should continue to occupy the same."³ For some years the Indians on the Huron River tract continued to live a "peaceful and intelligent life, carried on business and trade, and met the white man in games and amusements in which they generally came out best."⁴ By the treaty of 1842 the tribe found it necessary "to relinquish to the United States their claim and all other lands in Michigan."⁵

Today we remember our former neighbors as a clever, intelligent, civilized race, always humane and hospitable. This has been illustrated in their suffering of their former enemies to settle in their lands without money or favor when driven back by the white population. It has been illustrated by the humane treatment of their prisoners, most of whom they adopted into their families and some in place of their own chiefs who had fallen in battle. We remember them for their exceeding bravery, having been given a higher rank than many other relative tribes. With them flight from the enemy in battle, whatever might be the odds of strength or advantage, was a disgrace. They fought to the death and would not be taken prisoner.

Today we recall there are only a few Wyandott Indians left, 300 in Oklahoma, 400 in Lorette and Quebec, Canada, to freshen our memories that a proud, civilized, illustrious Indian tribe granted us our name and the land upon which stands the city of Wyandotte.

²"Indian Treaties," Mich. Pioneer Collections, Vol. 26, p. 297.

³*Ibid.*

⁴*Wyandotte Herald*, Sept. 7, 1888.

⁵"Indian Treaties," Mich. Pioneer Collections, Vol. 26, p. 283.

CHAPTER 2

THE FIRST SETTLERS

"The great discoverer spreads his sails to shifting winds and voyages over unknown seas to place on the map of the earth an undiscovered continent; his name goes down to ages as the great outstanding character of his day and generation, but sails would have failed, the ships would have perished in tossing seas but for the strong hands, stout hearts and sailor skill of the unknown and unsung sailors who watched and fully contributed the brawn and the ability of the average man."

Edward C. Bryan
High School Alumni Address
November 11, 1927

PERHAPS it is the prominence and recognition of the importance of Major John Biddle that causes contemporary citizens to accord Major Biddle the distinction of being named the first white settler in Wyandotte.

There had been white farmers, living unmentioned in the territory, who neighbored with the Indian Village and tilled the land in peace before John Biddle established his home here.

Such names as George Clark, George Payne, and William Case were recorded during the 1800's and through the war years. These men came from the East, New England and New York states after the close of the war of 1812 seeking the new and richer farm lands which, it had been rumored, lay along the shore of the Detroit River.

Clark Family

After the St. Mary's Treaty with the Indians in 1818 had released the land in this section to government control, John Clark, a successful merchant from Buffalo, New York, journeyed westward in the same year to the Wyandotte territory and settled with his family in a log house which had been the home of the former Indian Chief, Blue Jacket. The cabin was located on the river front approximately near the spot which later was occupied by the shipbuilding industry and the present-day lines of Plum to Grove streets.

The Clark family had distinguished themselves early in the history of our country. Watrous Clark, father of John, was one of the first patriots

to respond to the call to arms in the Revolutionary War. He was recognized for his exceeding bravery while engaged in the early battles of the Siege of Boston, Bunker Hill, Trenton, Princeton, New York, White Plains, and others. Charles, a son, and brother of John, attracted attention to himself in the massacre of Croton Heights. John, the second son, was born in Norwich, Connecticut, November 14, 1777, after the war, but had continued the military tradition of the family by actively participating in the war of 1812 as Captain of the Saugerties Rangers.

The story of the arrival of John Clark into the village of Monguagon has been related by his son, George, in the Michigan Pioneer Collections, Volume I, page 504:

"In 1818 my father and family moved from Cleveland and Rock river in a boat, coasting along the shore of Lake Erie and Detroit river, up to Monguagon, putting into rivers and bays for harbors at nights and during head winds, waiting there for good weather and fair winds. I came through by land, driving some cattle, assisted by a highly-educated young Frenchman, who gave his labor for his board, which was nothing extra. He had just arrived from France, and was engaged in exploring this new country, taking notes as he traveled.

"We came through the Black swamp; it was heavily timbered, no road chopped or marked, only a blind trail lying between Sandusky river and Maumee, encountering mud and water nearly the whole distance. This was in July. The first day we came nearly half way, finding mosquitoes and flies so thick as to be very annoying to ourselves and cattle. The cattle were so tired we could drive them no farther, having traveled from early morning till night. Here on a creek we found a small cabin called the half-way house, inhabited by a half-breed and his family, who gave us for supper and breakfast wildcat soup and corn. I asked how so many bones came in the kettle. He answered, 'It was one good cat.' This was well understood by my companion, who could eat no more of it. But having been through the war of 1812 at Buffalo and Black Rock, I was used to rough fare, and relished the soup. I had some curiosity, however, to know whether it was cat or dog.

"Our cattle forded and swam the rivers and creeks, we following the blind roads and trails most of the way, some days being able to procure scarcely food enough to sustain us. We met two companies of soldiers from Detroit near the Huron river, cutting and clearing the military and Territory road,—afterwards called the Detroit and Monroe turnpike,—through the thick, heavy timber, making the road one hundred feet wide, and building bridges wherever needed.

"I found my father and family at Monguagon, they having been there several days.

"In 1818 the government, having surveyed the land along the river, put

certain parcels of it in market, selling at auction to the highest bidder. Part of the land now occupied by Wyandotte, fronting on the river, was sold at auction and bid off by citizens and officers of Detroit. There was much excitement in the bidding, the price being run up as high as forty dollars per acre.

"The citizens who bid were Col. Mack and J. R. Williams, and of the U. S. officers, Gen. Macomb, Major Biddle, Major Kearsly and Dr. Dilivan. Some of the land was resold to Major Biddle, and some reverted to the government.

"Wyandotte was an Indian village with a number of houses, small orchards, and corn fields. About this time several families lived in the houses, having worked their way up here from the States. This was then a noted crossing and landing place for the Indians, their trails branching off into the country.

"We rented Dr. Dilivan's part for a few years and moved into a house which stood on the brink of the river, just below the present location of the shipyards. The house was a hewed log one, said to have belonged to Blue Jacket. The winter of 1819 and 1820 was open, very much like the last, 1875-6. I remember it perfectly well, because we wanted to haul timber and rails out of the woods, and there was scarcely any snow until about the middle of April. Then came a very severe northeast snow-storm, snow falling two feet deep or more on a level, which all thawed off in a few days. . . .

"Game of almost all descriptions was very plentiful in the rivers and marshes. The creeks and swamps teemed with fishes, snakes, frogs, etc. Wolves were very numerous; they would give chase to the deer, and to escape them the deer would run into the river, and when the river was frozen they would slip down, and thus become an easy prey to the wolves all ready to catch and eat them. The foxes seemed to understand following up the wolves and eating what they left. They could be seen on the ice on moonlight nights. We were annoyed by the wolves keeping us awake, and were obliged to build pens to shut our calves in, to keep them from the hungry jaws of these pests.

"There was a man who lived about a mile from us, whose name was Jacobs—he was an active and persevering man, a natural mechanic, being able to make almost any article needed to a new settlement. One cold winter's day, with a yoke of oxen and sled, he went to Detroit, where he bought a quarter of beef, and placing it on his sled he started for home. On a narrow part of the road in the woods, near the upper part of what is Wyandotte, about ten or eleven o'clock at night the wolves rushed out to attack him and his beef. He whipped his oxen into a run, and when the wolves came near enough he pulled out a sled stake and 'went for them.' Driven from the beef they would attack the oxen, and driven from them, they would again assail the beef. As they played at this game they grew bolder, and at length came near enough for him to knock several of them over; the rest retired from the conflict, leaving him to convey his beef to his home in safety.

"One evening in June, a son of Mr. Jacoks, with myself, started out to hunt deer, about a mile from home, where they came to beaver pond to escape from flies and mosquitoes. We were afraid of nothing except wounded bears and Indians. It was said the Indians had killed some of the white hunters when in the woods after game. We were well armed for a hunt, having each a belt and its tomahawk, a butcher knife, and a gun, charged with nine buckshot, this being the best equipment for close quarters in the dark. When a part of the way to the pond, we separated, agreeing not to get too far apart, and if anything happened to one, the other was to halloo. One went to the head of the pond, the other to the foot, so that if there were any deer in the pond they should not escape. Soon after we parted I heard a report of a gun, and Jacoks' voice nearly the same instant in a loud halloo. I ran, being anxious to make good time, supposing an Indian had fired the shot. It was foggy, and getting quite dusk. Between us there was a space covered with logs and brush, and in running I would tumble and fall, not seeing the logs, thus losing time. I crawled a part of the way on my hands and knees. Before reaching him I came to an open spot and dimly saw what I supposed to be Jacoks and an Indian on their knees. The thought flashed across my mind, if I fired I might kill the wrong man. I rushed up to them thinking that if the Indian had emptied his own gun he would take my companion's and shoot me. To my inexpressible relief I found that instead of a conflict with an Indian Jacoks had shot and wounded a large buck, had jumped on him, and was using his knife vigorously to kill him. It was so large we had considerable difficulty in reaching home with it in the dark. However, it fed both families for several days. . . ."

The father, John, left Monguagon village to develop a farm in Brownstown, where he died February 22, 1827. He did not live long enough after his arrival here to make a distinctive contribution to the history of the locality. It remained for his descendants to imprint the Clark name upon the land.

John married twice. His first wife was Sally Persons Clark, the mother of George, John P., James, Nelson, and one daughter. The first wife died in 1814 and the father married Sally Swain of Buffalo; to them were born two sons, Isaac S. and Charles. Sally Swain Clark lived long enough to see the village of Wyandotte established. She died at Brownstown in July 1859. The children and grandchildren, who were born in the pioneer period, of John and his wives continued the family name and traditions in the life of the city until the death of Florence Clark Rafter in March 1949 at the age of ninety-seven.

The children of Isaac Clark were Everett N. Clark, Ella M. (Mrs. Jerome H. Bishop) and Emma E. (Mrs. Milton R. Wood). Charles,

Isaac's brother, had three children, Florence E. (Mrs. H. N. Rafter), Arthur B. and Clarence H.

George Clark, the son of John by his first wife, was credited in later historical accounts as one of the first white men in this area. He built a home and extended his farm property north of Wyandotte from the site of the Michigan Alkali Company. Besides farming, he became absorbed in the fishing industry. In those early days fishing and the Clark name were synonymous. In 1833 he obtained possession of Grassy Island, later extending his interests to Fighting Island and from Belle Isle along the Detroit River to Maumee, Ohio. The business of fisheries soon gave way to a deeper interest in the subject of fish. By intensive study he became known as a pisciculturist of high rank. He was one of the first proponents of the artificial propagation of fish, lending aid to Professor J. W. Milliner, Deputy U. S. Fish Commissioner, in the collecting of specimens of the different varieties found in the home waters of the Great Lakes. In 1873 Governor Bagley appointed him to the office of State Fish Commissioner, which he held until his death October 14, 1877. The enthusiasm for the subject of fish launched him into the literary field. For many years he contributed articles to the *Michigan Farmer* and for Professors Agazziz and Baird. A touch of inventive genius induced him to originate different devices. Clark's Metallic Life Raft was in general use on the lake steamers for many years. Friends have described him as a man of "remarkable force of character," one whose earnest endeavors forged a way into the wilderness for others to follow.

John P. Clark, a brother, and Charles, a half brother, continued the tradition for energetic and progressive activities. Both men were equally concerned with the fishing enterprises and the acquisition of extensive property holdings. John's interests carried into the Springwells and Detroit areas. He donated to Detroit the land now known as Clark Park.

The Clark influence did not end with the first members of the family. The name of Everett N. Clark, son of Isaac, is written into the official city records as mayor of the City of Wyandotte, 1893-1894. In 1898 he served as a member of the City Council, taking part in the fight for the Municipal Light Plant. His business life was centered in his hardware store located for many years on the east side of Biddle between Elm and Oak, and as trustee of the estate of his uncle, John P. Clark. The building of the steamer "Wyandotte" was the result of an investment by the Clark Estate. For some time he managed both the "Riverside" and the "Wyandotte." An active Republican, he was appointed postmaster of the city in 1906, holding the office for four terms until 1914. Mrs. Jer-

ome H. Bishop and Mrs. H. N. Rafter added honor to the Clark name by devoting their energies to the social and cultural life of the city.

With esteem for the public spirited character of this early pioneer family, the city chose to form a link with the past by naming Clark Street in their memory.

George Payne

Dr. Christian in his historical account mentioned George Payne, Sr., as having arrived in Michigan in 1831, and as having resided in this area until 1853 when "he removed to his farm onto Monguagon, adjoining the Eureka tract on the latter's southern edge and fronting on the Detroit river." As late as the year 1928 the Payne tract of land was considered "a large estate of hundreds of acres and worth a large fortune."

Mr. Payne raised sheep and cattle during the period when Indians roamed the country and their presence was a daily part of the life of the pioneers. The Indians were friendly and often dined at the Payne mansion.

The family is better known in Wyandotte through the pioneer associations with the son and daughters of George Payne—George Payne, Jr., Emmeline, and Sarah (Mrs. William Potter).

George Jr. was born in 1842 on his father's farm. Following the death of his parents, he and his sister Emmeline attempted the management of the farm by raising hogs and chickens successively. George Jr. was not a farmer by choice, and the venture did not prove a success. He had one obsession, the hobby of perpetual motion.

After discontinuing farming George and Emmeline moved to Wyandotte about the time of the turn of the century and built a home on Biddle Avenue between Vinewood and Poplar streets, later known as the William Goodwin residence and at present occupied by Mr. Goodwin's daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brower. The house was arranged inside with an open space reaching to the roof. Here George worked on a contrivance which he believed would solve the question of perpetual motion. Although over the span of many years of work he never solved the perplexing science, his interest never waned. In conversation with visitors, George always ended with some reference to his progress in this field of science, and frequently he continued his study all night long to the distress of his sister.

Emmeline was the devoted spinster to bachelor brother, George, whom "she worshipped." Her life's activity consisted solely in giving attention to George's whims and fancies from early morning to night.

She was a happy, sociable person who enjoyed a cup of tea and a friendly chat reminiscing about the early times and folks of pioneer Wyandotte. No social gathering was complete without Miss Emmeline's presence representing the old aristocracy of the "lace-curtained"⁶ crowd.

Sister Sarah moved to Chicago with her husband in the early 1890's. After the death of Mr. Potter, she persuaded her brother George and sister Emmeline to move to Chicago and live with her. Upon Sarah's death the brother and sister returned to Wyandotte and took an apartment in the home of Mrs. Amelia Eby at the corner of Vinewood and Biddle Avenue, the present location of Nixon's funeral home. There he continued the labor of trying to overcome the law of gravitation and of friction, in a barn at the rear of the house. He never for a moment lost faith in the ultimate success of his labors.

Emmeline died in 1914, and the brother was left alone to keep bachelor quarters and to re-live the memories of his boyhood days when danger lurked behind the trees in the deepwooded wilderness and life was lusty and adventuresome. His "unfailing good humor and cheerfulness" which remained with him to the end of his days were like a tonic to all who knew him. With the passing of George in 1928 the remembrances of Wyandotte's wilderness days lost much of their excitement.

William Case

There are no printed records available on William Case, but Mrs. Winifred LeBar, a great-granddaughter, relates that family tradition points to the probability that either he or his wife were closely related to the Clark family mentioned earlier, since Mrs. Eustace Stoddard, one of the two daughters of William Case, spoke of the children of Isaac Clark as "my own cousins," and in Clark's obituary notice his wife is listed as Lydia Case. (Mrs. Mabel Bishop Gilmer relates the story that her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Lydia Case Clark, was born while the family was en route to Wyandotte by way of Lake Erie and the Detroit River. The emergency dictated that the Case family strike out for land in the middle of the night. The haven proved to be the Rucker home on Grosse Ile.)

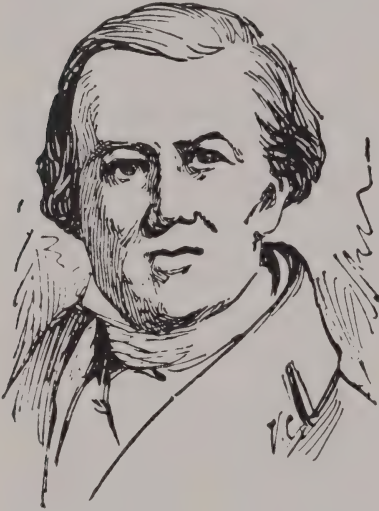
William Case purchased property west of Wyandotte on Eureka Road during the 1820-30 period. On his death he bequeathed the more valuable portion of the land, that adjoining the village, to Mrs. Eustace

⁶Colloquial term used by pioneers to designate the privileged from the underprivileged citizens. It was also applied to a section of the city extending north of Eureka Avenue.

Stoddard to compensate her somewhat for having a red birth-mark on her forehead. The portion of land farther from the village he bequeathed to Mrs. Stoddard's sister, "Lib" Case Baisley, which was later known as Baisley's Grove, the scene of many picnics and social gatherings in pioneer Wyandotte. Many descendants of William Case, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Mrs. Stoddard and Mrs. Baisley, are still living in Wyandotte.

John Biddle

Major John Biddle belonged to an old American family, several members of which had served in our navy and army with distinction. He entered the army as a lieutenant in 1812, fighting throughout the war. At the close of the war, being restored to civil life against his will, he settled in Detroit in 1816 as paymaster for the army. With his wife, Eliza Bradish of New York, they soon became social leaders of Detroit. Although not a politician at heart, he took an active interest in public affairs and was ever ready to lay aside his personal preference for private life to serve the public in any capacity he was called upon to fill. "Whenever ability was desired, honesty required or character essential, there was found Major Biddle.



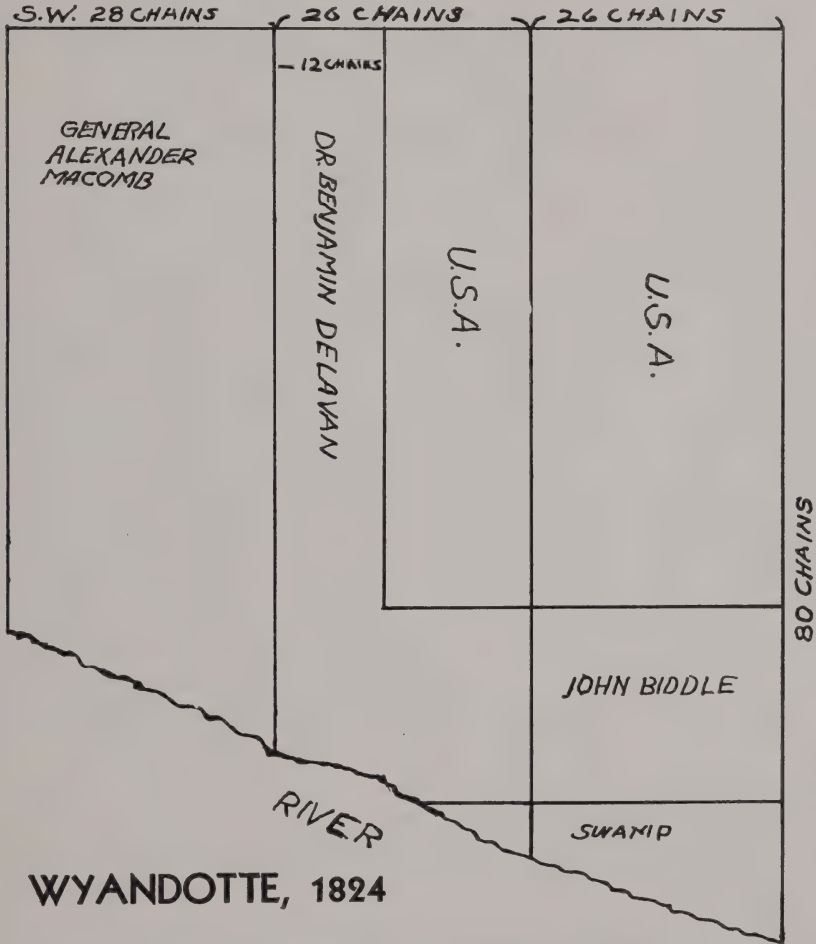
JOHN BIDDLE.

To the end of his long and useful life he retained the love and respect of all who knew him and left no personal enemies."⁷ Public esteem placed his name several times as candidate for U. S. Senator, Governor, and Lieutenant-Governor of Michigan and other similar offices. His appointments in public affairs were numerous and ranged from Register of the Government Land Office, Mayor of Detroit, to trustee of the Michigan University.

Various dates have been given for the land purchase of Major Biddle. George Clark's statement that "in 1818 the government, having surveyed the land along the river, put certain parcels of it in market selling at auction to the highest bidder" points to 1818-1820 as an accurate date of

⁷Van Alstyne, John S., *Reminiscences of Early Times in Wyandotte*, 1899, p. 4.

purchase. The map showing the land holdings in the year 1824, was drawn in the land abstract papers of the Watkin Benjamin family and substantiates Mr. Clark's further statement that "the citizens who bid were Colonel Mack, J. R. Williams, and of the U. S. officers, General



Territorial holdings in Wyandotte Territory, 1824.

Macomb, Major Biddle, Major Kearsly and Dr. Dilivan." The discrepancies in the acreage shown on the map and the tract of 2,200 acres which was sold later to the Eureka Iron Company by John Biddle is explained by George Clark in his *Recollections* in these words, "There was much excitement in the bidding, the price being run as high as forty

dollars per acre; . . . some of the land was resold to Major Biddle and some reverted to the government." We conclude then that he added the extra land to his original purchase some time between 1824-1853.

This beautiful wooded section by the river inspired Major Biddle with the idea of being a gentleman farmer like Washington at Mount Vernon and Jefferson at Monticello. So he hastened to construct a summer estate to which he could retreat from bustling Detroit and entertain his friends with his accustomed "open-handed hospitality" in the quiet coolness of the woods and water. The buildings were completed in 1835 and named "The Wyandotte" for the Indians living here. The family moved from Detroit a year later.

There are only a few words written in description of the home. "The Biddle house stood just about at the present line at the corner of Vine-wood and Biddle and was an imposing structure with a wide veranda running its whole length, and Corinthian columns reaching to its second story. Back of the main building was an extension adjoining for housing farm hands, and then the barn and sheds. The rooms were large and high-ceilinged, ideal for entertaining in which the Major and family delighted. . . . The grounds of the estate were entirely in keeping with the luxury of the household. The land sloped gently from the house to the river which was then at the east curb of Front Street, now Van Alstyne Blvd. To the south ran a creek which frequently overflowed, causing marshy ground covered with growth of flags."⁸ "With the graveled roads leading to the house and the beautiful flowers and shrubs surrounding it, many visitors were prompted to exclaim, 'How like an English park this is!'"⁹ "For farm laborers they had runaway slaves, escaping to Canada from the south by way of the underground railway, and Wyandott Indians who at that time were still numerous in the district."¹⁰

During the early days of the village the house was used until 1861 as a boarding house for the workers at the Eureka Iron Company. Later fire destroyed the rear portion of the structure leaving only the front in

⁸"Major John Biddle," *Wyandotte Daily News*, May 19, 1936.

⁹Christian, Dr. E. P., *Historical Associations Connected with Wyandotte and Vicinity*, 1888, Michigan Pioneer Coll., Vol. 13, p. 320.

¹⁰"Major John Biddle," *Wyandotte Daily News*, May 19, 1936. Although wording in the quotation is taken from the newspaper accounts, both Dr. Christian's and John Van Alstyne's manuscripts give the same information. The editor's account is a combination of facts from both original manuscripts.

use. After its purchase by Thomas Watkins, the house was moved to a spot between Cedar and Spruce, where it stands today, turned gable end to the street and remodeled.

From 1836-1848 Major Biddle attempted to find happiness here. But no man could have been worse suited for life on a farm. All his interests were with the army and more public life. After a quiescence for nine years at "Wyandotte" he left Detroit and went to his old home in Philadelphia. A trip to Paris and travel in Europe relieved the boredom somewhat. The opportunity of unburdening in sale his colossal mistake of the "Wyandotte" estate to the Eureka Iron Works brought him such joy that he gladly sold the land including the house for \$20.00 an acre. He returned to White Sulphur Springs for his wife's health and died there in 1859.

Major Biddle did not take firm roots in Wyandotte nor did he love the land as a native farmer. However, the people of the embryonic town which followed respected him and his judgment to the extent of according him the first prominent white man's place in the story of the town,¹¹ of adopting the use of the name of his estate "Wyandotte" for its name,¹² and of designating the city's main thoroughfare Biddle Avenue.

¹¹This may be explained by the fact that the acreage of John Biddle only was purchased by the Eureka Iron Works. When the boundary lines for the village were surveyed and established, the farms of the other early settlers were outside the incorporated limits.

¹²The city received its name indirectly from the Indians. Major John Biddle chose to name his estate the "Wyandotte" from the Indian tribe, Wyandotts, who were living in this area. The name means "They were islanders." Since the Eureka Iron Company purchased the "Wyandotte" estate, it seemed natural to continue using the same name.

CHAPTER 3

NATIONALITY GROUPS

"This is a day on which those of German birth and extraction gather to perpetuate German ideas and traditions. While we are Americans, we should not deny to those who were born on German soil the practice of the virtue of patriotism and love of the land of their birth. So long as the preservation of German traditions and ideas tends to the building up of all that is highest and best in German character, it cannot help but be a benefit to the American people."

Mayor Charles Marr
Grosser Deutscher Tag
October 12, 1911

THE swaying of the tall hickories, elms, and oaks, the swishing of the paddles of the Indian canoes dipping softly in the indigo waters, the crashing of the pioneer's ax, the lurching of his plow turning the rich furrows, the flashing of his gun as he hunted for game, soon gave way to new sounds of many tramping feet and the babble of voices in different tongues. People from confused and turbulent countries sought a spiritual rebirth and clarity of purpose in a virgin land.

Everyone in the United States is either an immigrant or descended from immigrant stock. It is the amalgamation of the peoples from many countries uniting their talents and cultures in friendship and for a definite goal that has given to the United States a distinctive heritage.

It is difficult, because of a lack of written source material, to obtain exact information on the immigration of various nationalities into Wyandotte. Many of the facts have to be deduced from the general history of the community, from the general history of immigration in the United States, and from the nationalities of Detroit, an adjacent community, whose pattern, no doubt, influenced Wyandotte history. In the early period of our country the immigrants were from northern and western Europe. During the latter part of the nineteenth century the tide turned toward southern and eastern Europe and was called the "new immigration." From the earliest period the immigrant has profoundly affected the composition of the cities of the United States socially, politically, and economically.

The representatives of those nationalities came to Wyandotte during the same period which marked their countries' migration trend to all the United States. Each group selected a location, built homes, established its church, organized its social centers, and sometimes erected a school to meet the needs of its individuality as a national unit. The custom of the immigrant to this country, fearing the strangeness and possible hostility of others in a new land, has been to congregate, work, and play "in colonies" of their own national origin. Yet the good fortune of the city consists in the fact that its people came from many lands, bringing gifts of special talents; that each nationality group shared as a united people common mistakes and unpleasant episodes; brought forth their young, and buried their dead in mutual understanding and in the hope of developing the important city of today.

Nationalities in Wyandotte have been represented by the following groups: English, Irish, Scotch, Germans, Italians, Polish. Other nationalities are present in the city but not in large numbers.

HISTORIC NATIONALITY PERIODS developed as follows:

1. Irish and English—1850-1880.
2. Scotch—1880-1900.
3. German—1860 with greater emphasis 1870-1920.
4. Polish, Italians, and other Slavic groups, 1880-1920.

HISTORIC LOCALITY SETTLEMENTS (following the immigration pattern "to congregate"):

1. Irish—Elm to Eureka and south, west to railroad tracks.
2. English—North of Elm, on Biddle, and west to railroad tracks.
3. German—Eureka south to Grove; farmers west of tracks.
4. Italians—Alkali Street to Goddard Road.
5. Polish—West of railroad tracks, Vinewood, 10th, and 13th St. area.

SOCIAL CENTERS, ORGANIZATIONS, CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS (following the custom to congregate):

1. English—Heart of Oak's Hall, Stoll Avenue
St. Stephen's Church
Methodist Church and other Protestant denominations
2. Irish—Father Matthew Hall (pioneer period) location present
Central Fire Station
St. Patrick's Church and School
Ancient Order of Hibernians
3. Germans—Arbeiter Hall (Elm at Fourth)
St. Joseph's R. C. Church and School

- Trinity Lutheran Church and School
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- St. John's Evangelical and Lutheran Church and School
- 4. Polish—Dom Polski Hall, 1519 Oak Street
- Polish American Citizens' Club, 1539 McKinley
- Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church and School
- St. Stanislaus Church and Elementary School
- St. Helen's Church and Elementary School
- Wyandotte Council of Clubs
- Polish American Citizens' Club (west, north, south divisions)
- Citizens' Club of Polish descent
- Polish Falcons
- Polish National Alliance and Auxiliary
- League of Polish Catholic Women
- Polish Legion of American Veterans
- Polish Army Veterans of America
- 5. Italians—St. Elizabeth's Church and elementary school
- Italian-American Non-Partisan Club

Displaced Persons

A recent trend in nationality infusion has been aggravated by the late wars. This newer immigration has been designated as the Displaced Persons movement. The pendulum of historic time has swung back fifty to one hundred years repeating the pattern of discouraged and frightened people seeking a spiritual and economic haven in the land of opportunity. The land to which this type of immigrant is arriving has been established and developed, and the problem is no longer one of hard work, hewing a home, a city, or a state; but rather of the immigrant assimilating and understanding an organized and functioning democratic society. The tendency to congregate in "colonies" is no longer feasible since the arrival of displaced persons has been planned by a national program of sponsorship by individuals, churches, and civic organizations whereby the sponsor pays transportation from port of entry and guarantees housing and employment. The predominant nationality trend of the Displaced People in the United States has been from the Eastern European countries, especially Poland. Wyandotte once again has reflected this national pattern.

The Displaced Persons' group in Wyandotte has been sponsored largely by friends and relatives with the Polish organizations and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church having taken a lead in sponsorship among the

church and civic groups. One family was sponsored by the Alaethian Class of the Methodist Church, and another has been guided by the Presbyterian Church. The nationalities in Wyandotte have included more Polish than any other, followed by the Hungarians, Ukrainians, Austrians, Italians, Lithuanians, and Russians. In the matter of employment, the Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation has received the greatest number.¹³

The Displaced People along with the war brides of Wyandotte soldiers, who also came from European countries—England, France, Germany, and Italy—have contributed a gift to the city different from that of the pioneer group whose nationalistic characteristics have helped to shape the destiny of the village. Their gift has been the development of an international consciousness in the city mind, and a self-consciousness of the benefits of the American way of life. It is no longer a matter of colonies of nationality groups busying themselves building a new amalgamated parochial society. With the social order accomplished, the newer immigrants represent symbols through which the citizens may contrast the efficiency and well being engendered by a governmental system evolved the democratic way with old world system of governments. In fact, the motivation of the newer immigrant in seeking this country is an acknowledgment that the democratic society has been successful and has secured its reception in the world of nations and in the histories of governments.

¹³The Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation house organ, *Wyandotte Chief*, April, 1952, features the DP's in the company's employment.

PART II

U*NDER the guiding spirit of a people of strong will, self-reliance, and inventive genius OUR VILLAGE SHAPED ITS DESTINY by establishing its boundary lines, by organizing its governing agency and correlating functions, and by instituting utilitarian services necessary for the comfort and well being of its citizens.*

CHAPTER 4

A VILLAGE IS BORN

"Eureka Iron Company, manufacturers of Wyandotte Boiler Plate and Tank Iron of all grades, Refined Lake Superior and Common Bar Iron, Charcoal Pig Iron from Lake Superior Ores especially for car wheels and malleable purposes."

Advertisement
Eureka Iron and Steel Company
Not dated

SPRING was receiving its homage from the first boats making their way slowly through the narrow channels of the Detroit River. The Soo locks had been opened and to each boat it meant greater adventures on the lakes. Suddenly the captain of one, accustomed to watching for strange sights and sounds, observed an unusual activity on the Biddle estate located about half way between the city of Detroit and Lake Erie and nestled in the heavy forest of white oak, elm, and hickory. His crew agreed it had not been so when they had passed by the previous fall. Smoke was billowing forth from tall chimneys, a fiery glare from red-hot coals flashed against the sky, and there was the unmistakable roar of a blast furnace. The sailors pondered that something new and significant was happening along that serene shore line. They decided to inquire about it when they docked at the Port of Detroit.

It was one morning in April, 1856, when the first blast from an iron furnace heralded to the outside world the birth of a village whose christening marks of smoke, soot, grime, and noise were to carry through even unto the end of the hundredth year and its ultimate establishment as a leading industrial city of the Detroit metropolitan chain.

The story of this change had its beginning miles away in the Upper Peninsula during a vacation trip in 1853.

Mr. Philip Thurber, an insurance agent in Detroit, decided to spend his summer vacation near Marquette in Northern Michigan. During his sojourn he became interested in the recently discovered iron ore of that region. Obtaining a specimen from the tract near Marquette owned by Mrs. Martha W. Bacon, he had the ore smelted and tested, which resulted in the recognition of its superior quality. Fortified with this infor-

FOREKA IRON CO.

Mills & Furnaces,
WYANDOTTE,
MICH.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

General Offices
DETROIT,
MICH.



MANUFACTURERS OF

Wyandotte BOILER PLATE and TANK IRON of all grades.

REFINED LAKE SUPERIOR (Equal to Norway) and Common BAR IRON.

CHARCOAL PIG IRON FROM LAKE SUPERIOR CRES

Especially for CAR WHEEL & MALLEABLE purposes.

mation he returned to Detroit and enthusiastically interested his business friends, Captain Eber B. Ward, S. M. Holmes, R. N. Rice, U. Tracy Howe, John Hossna, some employees of the Michigan Central Railroad, and other capitalists. The organization of the Eureka Iron Company on October 15, 1853, resulted. At first the group planned to erect a blast furnace near the original tract of ore, but iron experts advised them to seek a more accessible location near a supply of fuel. Examination and study of all available sites culminated in the purchase of the Major Biddle estate of 2,200 acres for the sum of \$44,000 or \$20.00 per acre. The tract had a river front of two miles accessible to transportation the year around and was plentifully supplied with raw material for charcoal.

Eber Ward headed the syndicate which negotiated the acquisition of the property and the laying of the foundation stones for the village of Wyandotte. From the abstracts of Wyandotte properties filed in the Wayne County Register of Deeds office during the 1854-1856 period, the legal interpretation reads as follows:

"... according to the United States Patent to John Biddle, excepting therefrom about 2 square acres of land before conveyed by said John Biddle particularly described in the deed aforesaid recorded in Liber 55 of Deeds, page 337 and whereas said Howe, Holmes, and Lockwood purchased said tract of land for and in behalf of the stockholders of the Eureka Iron Company and for their use and benefit and for the purpose of affording said Company a convenient site for a furnace and smelting works and woodlands for making charcoal and sites for dwelling houses and for other purposes and whereas said Howe, Holmes, and Lockwood have caused a portion of said tract to be platted and laid out for a Village called Wyandotte which plat is recorded in Liber 57 of Deeds, pages 5, 6, and 7.

Now therefore, said U. Tracy Howe, Silas M. Holmes and Thomas W. Lockwood make known and declare that they hold the said tract of land in trust for the following purposes.

First. To furnish to the Eureka Iron Company valuable sites and conveniences for furnace and smelting works and other works for the refining of iron or metals and to furnish Company woodlands for making charcoal and other fuel for their works and laborers and employees and timber for their buildings.

Second. To furnish agricultural lands for the raising of produce for the laborers and employees of said Company.

Third. To furnish building lots for the officers, laborers and employees of said Company on such terms as the directors of said Company shall direct.

Fourth. To furnish sites and conveniences for individuals or companies for manufacturing purposes in iron or other metals in whole or in part or which

may be for the convenience of the stockholders of said Company on such terms as the directors of said Company may direct.

Fifth. To sell and convey such other lots or parcels of said tract for such purposes as may be deemed for the interests of the stockholders of said Company.

Sixth. To convey such lands or such parts thereof as may remain unsold or unconveyed to such person or persons as a majority in interests of the stockholders of said Eureka Iron Company may direct at a meeting thereof called for that purpose or at their annual meeting or to mortgage the same for the purposes of said Company as the directors may direct.

Said wives renounce and release all interest or claim by way of dower or otherwise in and to said premises.

Signs U. Tracy Howe

Signs S. T. Howe

Signs S. M. Holmes

Signs A. E. Holmes

Signs Thos. W. Lockwood

Acknowledged May 4 and 5, 1855

Recorded April 22, 1856 at 3:15 P.M.

Although Captain Ward has stood out among the great men of early Wyandotte and may be regarded as its founder more truthfully than the earlier settlers, he was a citizen of the world, leading and forging the way for the industrial revolution in the United States. His interests were universal, the parochial business of one town was merely an incident in the wake of his vision and achievements. From 1840-1875 he was the giant industrialist of the northwest, known the small world round of that age as a super financier and organizer, the builder of railroads, owner of rolling mills, mines, transportation companies, shipbuilder, bank director, and landholder. The State of Michigan as well as Wyandotte prospered from his genius.¹⁴

Silas Farmer, who knew Captain Ward personally, says in his *History of Detroit*: "It was always a wonder to his friends how Mr. Ward

¹⁴The following preamble and resolution was presented by Alderman Keusch at the Council proceedings, Jan. 9, 1875: Whereas, it has pleased the Almighty God to remove from our midst, by death, our esteemed Iron Master, Captain E. B. Ward, and whereas we deem it to be our duty to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of a man identified with the growth of our city, state, and northwest great enterprise. One who was foremost to lay the first stone from which by his financial ability, judicious management, and care, sprung up a city of four thousand inhabitants. Therefore, be it resolved, that we express the most profound regret at the loss that this city, state, and north-

managed to maintain successfully the mastery of so much business. The secret lay in the fact that the captain was a good judge of men and had the faculty of attaching to himself faithful and competent men who could be charged with the details of his multitudinous business, and whose fidelity he never failed to reward with princely generosity."

William Downie in his biographical account of Eber Ward speaks



Captain Eber Ward

of him as "a friend and patron of young men of force and enterprise. . . . He possessed a strong mind and for one of comparatively limited education was surprisingly well educated in science, modern history, political economy, and philosophy; and could write forcibly upon subjects in which he was interested. . . . No oath or vulgar expression ever passed his lips. Possessed of great wealth, he was democratic in his habits and free from all petty weaknesses of pride. In religion he believed in God, in universal law, in life everlasting, and eternal progress."

Under the guidance and keen judgment of this enterprising and moral leader a select group of men were chosen to assist him in the development of the village: Darius Webb and Lewis Scofield, builders of the Eureka blast furnace and rolling mill; John S. Van Alstyne, lawyer; Frank and Fitzhugh A. Kirby, shipbuilders; and Thomas McFarlane, superintendent of the Silver Smelting Works.

west has sustained, and that we consider his death a public calamity. Resolved that we recognize the fact that in the establishment of great industries of smelting, manufacturing of iron and steel rails, and plate and merchant bars of all forms. That we owe their existence to his ability and enterprise. He proved himself a benefactor by developing the resources of our country, and furnished employment to the masses of our city. Resolved that heartfelt sympathy of the Council is hereby extended to the suddenly bereaved family and that the City Clerk be instructed to transmit the family a copy of this resolution. That in doing this, the City Clerk also be instructed to be entered on the record of these proceedings and have the same published in the city papers.

James Keusch, Alderman

Eber Ward selected John S. Van Alstyne, who had been studying law in the Detroit office of Messrs. Barston and Lockwood, interested principals in the Eureka Iron Company, to handle the real estate matters of the new village. Mr. Van Alstyne was first assigned as manager for the company's real estate holdings, and six months later was made manager of the company's business. In order to expedite the sale of lots and to encourage workmen to buy home sites, an eight page advertising pamphlet was published by the company in 1856 describing the lots as follows:

"The town, or village plat, is one mile square, with a river front of a mile inlaid out into lots 50 feet front by 150 deep, with 20 feet alleys through the blocks. The streets are 80 feet wide, the avenues 100, with the exception of Biddle and Superior, which are 120. Biddle Avenue extends the whole length of the town, east and west, running parallel with and commanding a fine view of the river for miles in either direction. Gigantic oaks and elms adorn either side of this beautiful thoroughfare, and magnificent shade trees of native growth have been reserved upon lots of the eastern part of it, forming altogether the most charming sites for private residences to be found in any town or city of the state.

"Lots are sold from \$100 to \$300; 20 percent of the purchase price to be paid down, and the balance in four annual installments, with seven percent interest. Most kinds of building materials, especially lumber, can be obtained cheaper than in Detroit, as every variety of timber requisite grows in abundance in the immediate vicinity, and there is a large steam sawmill in the village and another a half mile above.

"More than \$50,000 worth of village lots have already been sold; all of them under restrictions that buildings should be erected within the year and that no ardent spirits should be sold.¹⁵ [Eber Ward was fanatically opposed to liquor.] The Company has persistently refused to sell to speculators, or to remove any of these restrictions. The consequence is that the town has been peopled with an industrious, enterprising, temperate and moral population, who own their own homes and lots. Every man feels he has a permanency there, and whatever tends to the growth and prosperity of the town promotes his own personal interest."

¹⁵Legal wording on clause from warranty deed issued on Biddle Avenue property occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Henry Girardin. Also in abstract of Mrs. E. Bowbeer:

This conveyance is upon this express condition, that the said party of the second part, or his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns shall not sell, or cause, or suffer, or permit any other person to sell in or upon said premises, any intoxicating liquor, or any beverage, composed in whole or in part of intoxicating liquor except that in case such premises shall be occupied for the

Mr. Van Alstyne amplifies the "liquor clause" in the abstracts by explaining that,

"When the proprietors laid out Wyandotte, it was their wish to make a model town and so in all their contracts when selling lots, there was a clause forbidding the sale of intoxicating liquors under penalty of forfeiture. This was attempted to be kept in force for a few years, but when the Rolling Mill Company built a boarding house on the ground where the machine shop now stands, they permitted the keeper of the place to sell beer. This one bar let down, or rather this one bar set up, there was no further attempt at, or possibility of restriction. From that time to the present there has been no restrictions of liquid refreshment in Wyandotte, and nobody has had to go dry if he could pay the price. In the early days there was at least a semblance of restraint, the boys had to go out of the jurisdiction for liquor, the two acres sold by Major Biddle to other parties (short distance north of Ford Avenue) was the nearest available spot for a saloon and one was started there. It was popularly called Sebastopol and every evening the long procession of the thirsty would be seen going up to have their lives saved. There was one tall fellow who generally led the crowd. His first lieutenant was a very short man, his very antithesis. A ring of boiler iron was hung on a rail, upon which time was marked with cudgels; thus making the night hideous with noise, they would march up through the street to move on Sebastopol. The leader thus acquired the cognomen of Captain, and was so called until his death; even when he had become a steady, sober citizen, many who called him Captain did not know how he got the title."

Mr. Van Alstyne also recounts some personal impressions of the village in his *Reminiscences*:

"In laying out the Village plat the surveyor found it necessary to take some sale of Drugs and Medicines, the occupant for such purpose may sell liquor for medicinal and mechanical purposes only, provided he shall obtain written permission so to do from the parties of the first part, or their successors, and any breach of this condition shall subject the estate hereby granted to forfeiture. And the said EUREKA IRON COMPANY, by the said parties of the first part, as their Agents thereto especially authorized for this purpose does covenant, grant, bargain and agree to and with the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that the above premises, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns against all and every person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof, it will FOREVER WARRANT AND DEFEND, except upon breach of the above condition; except, also, as against claims arising from tax sales, or for taxes assessed.

Signed, Eber Ward, Silas M. Howe, U. Tracy Howe, Thomas W. Lockwood, Trustees for the stockholders of the Eureka Iron Works.

liberty with the road which generally held the same course as Biddle Avenue does, but not so directly. It worked with sinuosities along about 66 feet, the regulation road width, its boundaries were pretty nearly included in the 120 feet of Biddle Avenue. At a few points notably just above Mulberry Street and Chestnut, the old traveled road is now into lots. At Chestnut Street the road crossed the ditch,¹⁶ so called, about under the tower of the Presbyterian Church. There was no road open on either the north or south line, and only a chopping through the woods on what is now Eureka Road, then called the 'Collard Road.' There are a few farmers from three to five miles out this road, and in order to get to them, except in the dry summer, or on the snow in the winter, we had to go out by Goddard or Pancour Road to Telegraph Road on the sand ridge, six miles west, thence south and around to the Eureka, and thence to their farms 10-12 miles to get 3 or 4 as the Collard Road was impassable nine months of the year. The whole country was an unbroken forest from Biddle Avenue to Telegraph Road with very few exceptions.

"This neighborhood was then a paradise for the sportsmen in the spring when the river was alive with wild duck and geese, deer were plentiful; on winter mornings their tracks could be seen in the snow where they had passed through the Village on their way to the river for water, and also at the clearings where they had browsed on the freshly felled branches. Mr. Robinson once killed one in the river as it was swimming across. Wild turkeys were also seen daily. A favorite spot for them was on the knoll corner of Eureka Avenue and Fifth. There was a pigeon roost across the railroad and in their season quail, partridge, and other small game were plentiful. Game was cheaper than poultry.

"A corduroy road ran from an old dock at which is now the foot of Elm Street out to the forty acres of timber. Wood from this stand of timber had been cut to use in the building of Fort Wayne. The purpose of the road was to haul the timber to the dock. This road ran nearly a half mile through the woods before reaching the forty acres. . . ."¹⁷

¹⁶The creek which Mr. Van Alstyne mentioned and which has been so vividly remembered by the pioneers has been described in more detail by Dr. Christian and others:

"At Chestnut Street, a creek nearly the width of the street ran westward about 150 feet from Biddle Avenue and then northwesterly though much diminished in size to a poplar swamp fed by springs, near the corner of Fourth and Walnut Streets. The land at the mouth of this creek, on each side for a short distance was marshy, but with a fine sand bottom immediately outside the line of flags and rushes." Later this creek was filled with slag from the Eureka Iron Works.

¹⁷Colloquial term applied to this day to land now occupied by Roosevelt High School athletic field and which was used for recreational purposes in

Streets

The streets of the village were planned according to the Philadelphia pattern. This system was originated by William Penn. He designated one boundary line of Front Street as the beginning point. Streets running parallel to this front or beginning street were named according to numbers from First to the extent of the territory involved. Streets running horizontal to the numbered streets were named for trees and plants, "things that spontaneously grow in the country," in accordance with the Quaker love of Botany. The plat of the town thus assumed a checkerboard effect. The system became a truly American pattern, and spread throughout the New England and Midwestern states. Variations and adaptations were made by founders of some American towns but essentially the pattern was followed in minute detail, even to the extent of using the names of trees and plants, Chestnut, Walnut, Mulberry, and Vine, which may not have grown "spontaneously" in that particular section of the country.

In a town such as Wyandotte fortunate enough to have a river front, the focal point became the river and the first street parallel to it became Front Street. Front Street in Wyandotte extended from Elm to Mulberry and ran along the immediate water front which in the beginning was on the east line of the present Van Alstyne Boulevard. The Bishop Park land was developed at a later date from slag of the Eureka Iron Works' blast furnace. At Superior Boulevard a fine beach began and extended north nearly to Poplar Street. The river bank encroached on what is now the southeast corner of the City Hall property.

After the closing of the Eureka Iron Works, Mr. John Van Alstyne and a company of men platted the land from Eureka Avenue to Elm Street into building lots, and that section of the river front became known as "Van Alstyne Boulevard" in honor of J. S. Van Alstyne, the city's first mayor. The northern section of the street remained Front Street until March 4, 1921, when it was renamed by city ordinance to conform with the south section.

The horizontal streets, starting with the north boundary line called "Northline," Ford Avenue of the present day, were named according to the names of trees, Spruce, Cedar, Mulberry, Walnut, Poplar, Vine,

the pioneer days. The land extended from Oak Street to Eureka Avenue and from Fifth Street to the railroad. This area was platted and sold for building lots in 1900.

Chestnut, Oak,¹⁸ Elm, Maple,¹⁹ Sycamore, Orange, Pine, Cherry, Plum, Orchard, Forest, and Grove.²⁰

The name of Superior Boulevard has not been ascertained, but would appear to have been so designated because, with the exception of Biddle Avenue, it was the only street platted 120 feet wide by the Eureka Iron Company. The center landscaped islands, added when the street was paved, lend further superiority to the street since it is the only one in Wyandotte with this aesthetic character. An effort was made to change the name "Superior" to "Bishop Avenue" in 1901 in recognition of Mr. Bishop's numerous contributions to the material prosperity of the city. Two weeks after the councilmen had passed the resolution introduced by Alderman Kiley, a petition from residents on the Avenue asked for reconsideration of the change in name. After a hotly contested council session, the name "Superior" was reinstated with the blessing of Mr. Bishop himself, who had objected to having the name changed saying that he intended to broaden the scope of the public library and preferred that method of perpetuating his name. He had consented to the proposition on condition that there was no substantial opposition to it.

Eureka Avenue²¹ recognizes the importance and influence of the Eureka Iron Company in this city. This thoroughfare was the main wagon way to the charcoal kilns which dotted the landscape for some distance out this road.

The names of the streets from Ford Avenue to Emmons Boulevard in north Wyandotte were named by the platters of the territory, which was designated as "Ford City" until annexation to the city of Wyandotte in 1922. The street naming method in Ford City was one of an earlier practice in this country of naming territories, villages, rivers, landmarks, etc., for prominent pioneers or for one who had received a land grant from a European ruler. William Penn's Quaker heritage rebelled against this pioneer practice of such a vain character. In ac-

¹⁸Colloquially known as "Old Plank Road."

¹⁹Colloquially known as "Company Street."

²⁰Mrs. Mary Bittorf Megges believes that Grove Street may have been named from her father's farm. On the farm was a large grove of trees, what became known in the social activities of the city as "Bittorf's Grove."

²¹Colloquially this street is called by pioneers even to the present day, "Urikee" (U-re'-kee), or "The Ur'-e-key."

cordance with this method, pioneer family names marked Ford City's horizontal streets. After the annexation of Ford City, the City of Wyandotte made some changes in the street names. Those streets running parallel to Biddle Avenue were changed by ordinance dated March 9, 1923, to numbered names to conform with those in Wyandotte proper. The pioneer family names were left on the perpendicular streets. Northline was changed to Ford Avenue in courtesy to the annexation. Earlier in 1904, after the annexation of South Detroit, similar changes in names were made to conform with numbered streets in the city.

Councilman John Clements in 1934 reminded the citizens of Wyandotte of the importance of the name Biddle Avenue²² by vigorously protesting the Wayne County Road Commissioners' abortive attempt to apply the "West Jefferson" name to the river road as it passes through Wyandotte. "With a gratifying sense of appropriateness and regard for historical associations," Councilman Clements called attention to the fact that the thoroughfare was named after Major John Biddle and was so named and laid out in the original plat for the City of Wyandotte; and that the name "Biddle" is famous in the early annals not only of Michigan but of Pennsylvania. The Council as a whole voted solidly against any change.

In March 1928 Vine Street was changed to Vinewood in order to avoid confusion with Pine Street. Police and Fire Departments had encountered difficulties with telephone conversations and reports. The government ordinances of March 4, 1921, March 9, 1923, and March 2, 1928, have continued to correct and change street names which growth and circumstances have dictated.

Commercial and transportation developments have directed three streets as highways, Eureka Avenue, Biddle Avenue, and Ford Avenue. In 1934 Wayne County assumed control of these streets as leading arteries to the outside world.

²²The road is one of the oldest in the state. It was constructed during the war of 1812 by the soldiers under General Hull. Following the path of an earlier trail, it was called the "Great Military Road." Later it was changed to the "River Road," and finally with the extension of Jefferson Avenue out of Detroit, it was changed to "Jefferson Avenue." In 1906 when Biddle Avenue was paved, some of the planks were still in evidence when the construction company dug into the soil for the paving foundations. The planks were laid in 1818, extending from Spring Wells to Biddle Avenue, then to Monroe and on to Toledo.

On the Council agenda for January 20, 1888, "a scheme to place signs in all the streets in the city was successfully lobbied through by Louis Williams and Fred J. Thompson, and the latter was given the contract at \$25.00, he to furnish the lumber and place the signs in position."

Alderman Trites expressed his approval, "I think myself the idea of placing street signs is an excellent one. There are a good many people in the town who don't even know what street they live on."

Mr. Thompson lost no time in following through the Council resolution.

The signs were nailed on fences and were soon lost or mutilated so that in 1896 it became necessary to erect new signs. George Pardington was awarded the contract for nine cents a sign. This time precaution was taken to insure some degree of permanency for street designations. The name plate was attached to houses or telephone or telegraph poles.

House numbering was not considered important in the earliest platting of the village. The first recognition of such a need occurred in 1888 when the Council passed a resolution to have houses numbered for the first time. However, the first house numbering ordinance was not passed until 1892. The *Wyandotte Herald* newspaper complained that several months after the ordinance went into effect not a residence or business place carried a street number. This was due to the fact that a map was not prepared, so a property owner had no way of knowing his correct number. As a matter of fact, the placing of numbers was later left to agents and stores who had the numbers to sell. The early numbering started from the south end of Wyandotte, with Eureka dividing north and south Wyandotte. Therefore, references to numbers of yesteryears do not correspond with present day numbers which start at Edward's Bridge, north Wyandotte.

The present day house-numbering system was inaugurated in 1927 under City Engineer Frank L. Weaver. A key map was drawn and the system publicized as follows:

"The general scheme is to have each street or block start with a new hundred in number, north to south, east to west, as indicated on the map. The key number of any street remains the same throughout the city: thus, 2407 Biddle Avenue will be found immediately south of Walnut Street as will 2407 Fort Street. Likewise, 608 Emmons Boulevard. The hundreds going west correspond to the number of streets. Thus, 408 Oak is between Fourth and Fifth, as for example, 408 Ford Avenue. All north and south designations to north and south streets are eliminated."

After the boundary lines had been determined, the lots surveyed, and the street names completed, the plan of the village was then considered established and the plat for the Village of Wyandotte,²³ Michigan, was filed by the Eureka Iron Company in the office of the Wayne County Register of Deeds December 12, 1854.²⁴ On that date Wyandotte assumed its recognized place in the state history of Michigan.

²³See note under "Biddle" for meaning of name.

²⁴Surveyed by J. F. Munro and recorded in Liber 57 of deeds, pages 5, 6, 7.



"Detroit Exchange" Hotel, 1881, located on the east side of Biddle Avenue between Oak and Elm Streets. Milspaugh's stables on the left.

CHAPTER 5

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

"Primarily, Wyandotters are Wyandotters because they believe in this community—they are assured of its ultimate destiny, and they have the certain vision of its future greatness and industrial efforts and the resulting financial independence. To many residents, Wyandotte is not merely a habit but rather the growth upon them of the conviction that the community is worthy of their residence and a fine spot in which to rear the coming generation and to spend their own declining years."

"Co-operation"—editorial, 1936
Chamber of Commerce

WITH the filing of the plat the Eureka Iron Company turned its attention from the factory and organization of the village proper to the furnishings of the comforts of home and family living for its many workmen. The company established hotels for hasty accommodations until working-men's houses could be constructed. Meat markets, grocery, drug, clothing and general merchandise stores had to find a place along Biddle Avenue close to the Iron Works and convenient for the workmen on pay day. Churches, schools, social halls, and communication to the outside world were also necessary for the complete fulfillment of village life.

Housing

Shelter is one of the first necessities for the comfort of men. Home ownership has long been considered a desirable and stabilizing philosophy for Wyandotte, encouraged by the purpose of the Eureka Iron Company in platting the land. Nevertheless, it takes time to build homes, and workmen were urgently needed to proceed with the construction and operation of the Eureka Iron Company's factory. Consequently, the numerous hotels in the early life of the village answered that need for temporary housing.

Some of these hotels were road houses offering rest and refreshment for the stage coaches and horsemen travelling from Detroit to Toledo. The roads were dirt trails, impassable with mud during the rainy season and treacherous at all times. The deep, dark woods proved to be fine

protection for bandits seeking prey. The area around Emmons Boulevard of today was especially dreaded by the traveller. At this point a low swale condition surrounded by willow trees had to be sustained by a corduroy reinforcement. Many farmers breathed easier after that crossing.

A story is related that during a journey to Detroit from Flat Rock with a load of fire wood, Mr. Beaubien and his son noticed something "queer ahead" on the dark swale crossing into Ecorse. Soon it became apparent that quick action was needed. Mr. Woodruff was being attacked by bandits. His buggy had been pulled aside into the forest. The Beaubiens joined in repulsing the bandits and are credited with saving Mr. Woodruff's life.

The lone horseman made it a habit to carry guns for protection, travelling with caution. Mr. Sylvester Pray, the early paymaster for the Eureka Iron Company, had to journey to Detroit by horse for the weekly payroll before the organization of a bank in Wyandotte. His security was a gun and holster. The glamor of the "wildwest" that we watch in the movies and on television screens today was a reality to our pioneer tradesmen, but needless to say their experiences lacked glamor.

The hotels with their horse troughs were welcome havens for the anxious riders and weary horses. With the completion of home building and the introduction of new methods of transportation, the hotels lost their early significance and became taverns combining restaurant and saloon facilities with the renting of lodging to transient laborers and travellers.

In 1856 the Eureka Iron Company mentioned three hotels available for hasty accommodations, the Eureka, the Biddle House, and the Wyandotte. The Eureka was located at the corner of Poplar and Biddle, the present site of Mrs. Norman Bowbeer's home. A trough was directly in front of this place on Biddle Road. It was a journey to this horse trough that marked an early childhood adventure of Fred E. Van Alstyne trudging the long way from home to watch the horses drink and the performance of a travelling show-man with his trick bear. Suddenly becoming conscious that he was two long blocks from home, he became disenchanted with the bear and, frightened, scampered home.

Major John Biddle's palatial home, corner of Vinewood and Biddle, served a double purpose of a lodging place for pioneer workmen and

a road house for stage coaches. It was known as the "Biddle House."²⁵ Pioneers George Payne and George Beebe both remembered this large, white house as one of the stop-offs on the way to Detroit.

The location of the Wyandotte cannot be definitely determined.

In the later years of 1880-1890 the area around Pine and Orange, known as the "Third Ward," became the hotel-boarding-house center of the town, catering to the large forces of men employed at the nearby factories and the shipyards.

It was in these hotels that "John L. Sullivan's battles were decided long before they were fought; . . . it was here that Wyandotte's world famous rowing crews were conceded victory before their races; it was here that many of the Wyandotte shipyard boats were built over and over again; . . . and last but not least, it was here that the boys drank and 'ad nodder un' to the political victors."

The better class and more typical hotels were located along Biddle Avenue center and north of town. In 1900 William Denman built and opened at the corner of Chestnut and Biddle the spacious hotel known as the "Willamma"—a compound of the given names of Mr. and Mrs. Denman, Will and Amma. This hotel is the only one which has carried through the years in hotel service to the present day. In 1901 it was sold and became known as the "Columbia." Its modern period started in 1923 with the purchase of the building by the Down River Chamber of Commerce. The east section was used by this organization for offices until 1951, while the Biddle Avenue section, renamed the Parkview,²⁶ became the only rooming hotel in the town, even to the present day.

The Johnson House and the Sickmund were recommended among the city's best until the building of the Arlington. It is the name Arlington which brings unforgettable memories to every man, woman and child who has pioneer roots in this city. This leading aristocratic hostelry was built in 1884 by P. Debo, at the southwest corner of Oak and Biddle Avenue. It was noted for its fine food, excellent liquor and lavish furnishings.

In the days before prohibition, the hotel bar was one of the leading

²⁵Another hotel called the "Biddle House" has been noted in the Michigan Gazetteer of 1887 as located at the corner of Oak and Biddle, later location of the Arlington.

²⁶In 1954 this hotel block was sold to Max Migdoll, who plans to raze the building and erect wooden stores within the next three years.

gathering places for politicians. The banquet that featured the opening of the Wyandotte and Detroit Railway was held here, as well as many other civic celebrations. It was at the Arlington that Captain J. B. Ford made the prediction that the old Healy motor that furnished propulsion for the cars running between Wyandotte and River Rouge would be succeeded by electricity, which was then in its infancy.

During 1898 when the war was an all absorbing interest, the Arlington followed the custom of the times and placed a bulletin board outside the building for the posting of "live news free."

It was at the Arlington that travellers who wished accommodations with distinctive service "booked" for the night or week. The guest list itself was of such interest that weekly postings were printed in the *Wyandotte Herald* under the heading, "NEW ARRIVALS AT THE ARLINGTON."

Even a good news story from this hotel found its way into print and caused much merriment in the city. The story relates that:

"One of the employees at the ARLINGTON HOUSE was awakened by burglarious noises last Friday and proceeded to arouse the house. In a few minutes a procession of determined looking people headed by Landlord Debo wended its way cautiously to the rear of the hotel whence the disturbance had proceeded. On gaining the yard, fully prepared for a desperate encounter, the startled vision of the party fell upon—a cow with her head stuck in a swill-barrel. Thus did the expected tragedy turn into low comedy; but the girls sleeping downstairs were so thoroughly frightened that a block of Standard Oil stock would have been no inducement for them to remain there the rest of the night."

For thirty-five years under the changing managements of J. P. Loselle, John L. Correyell, G. F. Giasson, N. A. Roberts, and H. D. Gilson this historic hotel enjoyed a prosperous career. In 1919 the Arlington closed its door forever, locked away its memories in the hearts and minds of its many friends, and began a new life as Armstrong's Men's Clothing Store.

The first houses in the village were constructed for the workmen by the Eureka Iron Works and were designated as "cottages" whose architectural features were testimonials to the need for shelter within a minimum of time and financial ability. They were one floor, meager dwellings.²⁷

The concentration of the houses as revealed in an early map of Wyandotte dated in 1863, as well as the location in the present day of the

²⁷See chapter on "Civic Improvements" for description of early homes.

surviving homes, shows the area in which houses were built to extend from Oak through Pine Street. The houses built in these locations were called "Company Row houses" or "Rolling Mill houses" because these plain structures were built during the formative years of the village by the Eureka Iron Company.

The credit for the first house in Wyandotte has been shared by Leander Ferguson, in whose home at the corner of Elm and Van Alstyne the First Methodist Church was organized, and Michael



Home of Captain William Bolton, Van Alstyne Boulevard. Built in 1855, the oldest house in Wyandotte which is occupied by the original family. Typical "Rolling Mill" style.



Jerome Holland Bishop residence. Built corner of Superior and Biddle Avenues, 1888. Became the City Hall, 1935.

Asbahr-Girardin residence, corner of Cherry and Biddle Avenues. Small house in rear built 1864, typical early style. Large house built 1890's.

Boucher,²⁹ who came to Wyandotte to run a boarding house for employees of the Eureka Iron and Steel Company. The evidence concerning the Boucher house grants it preference on the "first" list. Frederick W. L. Thiede has been mentioned as having built the first brick house in the fourth block on Elm.

²⁹Most of Wyandotte knows this family as Busha (Boo-shee) which has been corrected by a member of the family. The name is Boucher (Boo-shay). Colloquial Wyandotters effected the change in the name in the pioneer period.

The larger, more pretentious and richly embellished homes were constructed at a later period. It was in the 1880-90 period that the impressive mansions of the prevailing style of architecture were constructed, namely along the main thoroughfare, Biddle Avenue. The names of Marx, Ford, Bishop, Hurst, and other business men became associated with the revival in home building.

The purposes and desires of Wyandotters have always been to continue the philosophy of a city of home owners inherited from their founding fathers. The effort of councilmen, business leaders, and realtors has been to encourage and safeguard the quality of home construction so that all its citizens may enjoy good, well-kept housing in suitable, comfortable surroundings. Mr. John S. Van Alstyne gave testimony to the accomplishments of this vigilance in 1901 by stating:

"From its beginning, Wyandotte has been from the very nature of the case a city of homes. For a man to want his own home and lot has been more the rule than the exception. As a legitimate consequence of this condition of things, we may fairly say that since emerging from the turbulent days of its youth, the citizens have enjoyed a larger share of content and happiness than has been the fortune of most, for whatever be his other surroundings that man may be happy who has a comfortable and well regulated house and home of his own."

There are several houses in Wyandotte today which have changed very little from the time they were built and are still indicative of the architectural style and manner of living of the pioneer days. Most of the structures which have withstood the weathering of time are located in the south end of Wyandotte, that section which was first settled by the early pioneer representatives—the Irish and German. The palatial mansions gracing Biddle Avenue of yesteryear have gradually been changed into business buildings and apartments with modern alterations disguising their original character. In the chart on pages 47 and 48 are listed representative pioneer structures in Wyandotte, the building dates of which still remain on the City Assessor's books or within the memories of pioneer society.²⁹

²⁹It has been necessary to rely on the memories of pioneers for some dates, since the City Assessor's books have not every record. In 1933 the entire city was reassessed and new books set up. As many dates as were recorded were transferred to the new books, but since building permits were not required in the pioneer days, it was only a matter of good fortune that early dates are available. This list is not intended as a *complete* list of all remaining historic houses. It is a *selective* list indicative of architectural style.

HISTORIC HOUSES

STREET	NUMBER	BUILT	COMMENTS
Biddle Avenue	2114	1836	Remains of the John Biddle House, first located at the southwest corner of Vine-wood and Biddle. Moved to present location when the MacNichols house, listed as 2610 Biddle, was built.
	2144	1875	Northwest corner of Cedar. Former Cashmore house.
	2455	1893	Edward Nellis residence.
	2505	1887	Mrs. Norman Bowbeer home. Built by William Smith.
	2543	1860*	Purchased by Richard Mason from the Eureka Iron Company. Known as, "Rolling Mill House."
	2610	1888	Wabeek Tea Room. Residence of Henry Roehrig.
	2523	1892	Apartment house. John Tucker and August Loeffler former occupants.
	2533	1902	Harry Brower residence. Built by George and Emmeline Payne. Later purchased by William Goodwin, father of Mrs. Brower.
	2613	1898	Public Library. Built by Edward Ford. Occupied by daughter, Mrs. Mark Bacon.
	2610	1896	Drennan home. Former site of the Major John Biddle mansion. Built by George P. MacNichols.
	2631	1880*	A. L. Hurst residence. Owned originally by Dr. S. B. Wright. James Hurst pur-
	2651	1888	chased and renovated in 1887.
			City Hall. Former residence of Jerome Holland Bishop.
	2738	1896	Business building. Dr. W. C. Lambert residence.
	2747	1870	Y.M.C.A. Built by James N. Thorp. Purchased by George Marx in 1880.
Eureka Avenue	3572	1869	Girardin home, small house in rear. Large home built in 1890.
	323	1860	
	327	1860	
First Street	2818	1860*	Purchased by Joseph Girardin in 1866 from Amanazer Sigmund. Second story added by Joseph Girardin.

*Date and information obtained from pioneer citizens.

Maple Street	307	1855	Known as "Company" or "Rolling Mill" houses.
	316	1856	Known as "Company" or "Rolling Mill" houses.
	322	1873	Known as "Company" or "Rolling Mill" houses.
	329	1859	Known as "Company" or "Rolling Mill" houses.
	333	1873	Known as "Company" or "Rolling Mill" houses.
	423	1873	Known as "Company" or "Rolling Mill" houses.
Oak Street	266	1874	Built by Marx family.
Orange Street	376	1863	Milkins home.
	3352	1889	Northwest corner at Fourth. John C. Cahalan residence.
Pine Street	315	1863	
Poplar & Second	NW-c	1875*	"Builder unknown." John S. Van Alstyne acquired about 1880. Known in the community as the "Van Alstyne Brick." It was considered one of the best homes in town at that period.
Sycamore Street	267	1855	"Rolling Mill" house. Occupied by Thon family since 1857.
	326	1870	
Third Street	3451	1855	Present owner Ira Kreger.
Van Alstyne	2855	1855	Built by Captain William Bolton who brought the freight and building supplies for the Eureka Iron Company factory.
	3133	1870	Francis Drouillard residence. First John S. Van Alstyne home. Moved from Biddle Avenue to this location in 1902. Early date for construction given as 1870. First house to install bay window. First located west side of Biddle next to Superior Garage between Superior and Chestnut.
Walnut Street	91	1873	Mayme King residence. Rear structure located on river front at the time the River Road was cut through in 1812. Moved to present site at the time of road construction. Upright front portion erected in 1873 by Nicholas Kettle.
Elm	234	1892	Built by Mary Eilbert Ginzle. Given to the city for the John Eilbert Memorial Hospital in 1915. Deeded with a clear title to the Independent Order of Odd-fellows as a lodge building in 1938.

*Date and information obtained from pioneer citizens.

Buildings

Privately owned and public buildings are a definite part of the sheltering needs of towns and communities. A few of the earliest buildings are still standing on Wyandotte streets. Others have passed with the ravages of time or by the directive handiwork of man. The buildings left standing today which have not been altered beyond the recognizable signs of their historic past are: Hoersch Block (Art Allen Shoes) 1868; Ginzel Furniture, corner of Elm and Second 1867; David's Super Market, corner of Eureka and Biddle 1874; Higbee Drug Company, corner of Eureka and Biddle 1874; Down River Federal Savings building,³⁰ corner of Biddle and Elm 1883; Veterans of Foreign Wars building



Down River Federal Savings Building, built in 1883 on the northeast corner of Elm and Biddle Avenues, the site of the first store in town. The post office occupied this building for many years.

(Arbeiter Hall) 1891; Municipal Light Office (Warmbier block) Elm at Second 1893.

A few continue to carry historic memories for many Wyandotters

³⁰Razed for a new building May, 1954.

and bring a smile and tear as their stories unfold—the old City Hall, the Old Brown School, the Marx Theater, Wyandotte Savings Bank.

CITY HALL 1880-1940. From 1867 to 1880 Wyandotte city had continued to grow in stature and importance so that the citizens wished to declare in visible manner their adolescent dignity in the form of an imposing building for the conduct of municipal affairs. A brief announcement in the *Wyandotte Herald* for October 22, 1880, declared the public intention, "We are pleased to note that as a step forward in the line of progression the Common Council has decided to purchase land and erect a suitable building for a council chamber, jail, and engine house for the Fire Department." What a small match to have launched such great fireworks!—a campaign of "blood, sweat, and tears." The city editor reported, "Wyandotte is enjoying a municipal muddle something after the manner and kind that affords entertainment for citizens of New York, Chicago, and Detroit."

It was a dispute over the site of the building. Everyone wanted a new city hall, but each wanted it in a different location. Mr. Farnsworth led the "Uptown" faction for a location opposite the Rolling Mills' office geographically convenient to the business district at the corner of Elm and Biddle, the Kinsel Drug Store today. The "Downtown" group thought that the location was not large enough and that the hall should be located at the southern end of Wyandotte where large lots were available. The voting of the Common Council stood at yeas—Aldermen Eby, Mason, and Debo (Uptown); nays—Beatty, Hinds, and Milkins (Downtown). Mayor Keusch cast the deciding vote in favor of the Uptown location, site of Kinsel Drug Store.

The opponents arrayed themselves for the fray by employing a lawyer, Charles E. Miller, to devise hindrances and delays and by securing the cooperation of Recorder Drennan in having him refuse to sign the bonds. In spite of these ominous conditions, the land was purchased from Mr. Farnsworth for \$1,000, and the "go" sign for building given December 10, 1880. It was a painful year of complaints of poor work, fighting among the contractors, work delays, and a general disgruntled feeling on the part of the taxpayers that "it might be completed sometime providing the contractors lived to a good old age and enjoyed good health." October 21, 1881, the Hall was finally accepted by the city and paid for to the total of \$8,769.00 with the statement that "the city has a good cheap building and no reason to complain except in the delay attending its completion."

The building, which was of no prevailing style of architecture, was two stories high, of red brick with stone trimmings. The first floor

housed the Fire Department, engines and hose carts. Large double doors opened on Biddle Avenue near which was located the receiving cistern supplied with water from the river by means of a pipe. The second floor of the main building left unfinished was planned to be used as a public hall. It was reached by a flight of stairs from a hallway opening on Biddle. An extension to the south of the building contained the jail.³¹

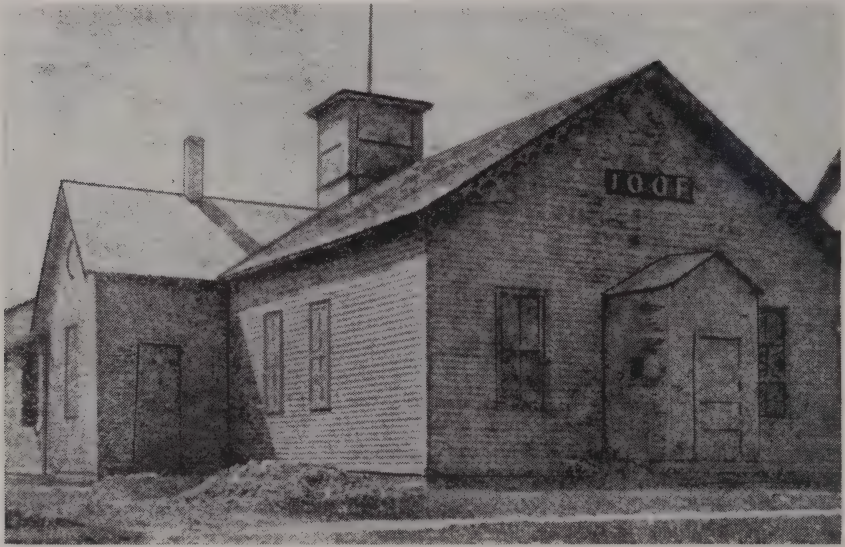
A hall in front led to the cells, eight in number in two tiers of four each. Charges for all overnight guests were allocated to the library fund. Above the jail was located the council chamber, which was also used as a public court until the main hall was finished. Born in strife, life began immediately in like fashion. Some of Wyandotte's most important public decisions were made in this hall. It was the scene of the bitter factional fight which attended the ultimate establishment of the city's municipally owned light plant. Profanity and bitter invectives often marked the discussions of the town's deliberative body. Some austere dignity was added to the vigorous combative spirit of the hall by the Public Library which for some years occupied the second floor. Mrs. Robert V. Briggs, cultured widow of one of the city's first lawyers, was the librarian. She was well read but unsophisticated in the ways of youth. On one occasion, the story is told, "she had a request from a small boy for a copy of the 'Life of Duffy Budau.' After an hour's search, she regretfully announced that the book was not in the library. The boy could not restrain a snicker as he walked away, for Duffy was that sort of anomalous creature generally known as, 'town character.' His more or less eventful career had never engaged the attention of an author and the boy knew it."

The quiet, cultured atmosphere of the Hall's intellectual pursuits was often punctuated by the activities of the fire department on the lower floor. "At the sound of an alarm, the wide, round doors opened automatically. A device released stall doors. The horses ran around the side of the engine to their places beside the wagon tongue and stepped into position over their harness on the floor. From above the engine a mechanism lowered the halter automatically; firemen quickly fastened a buckle on the front, and they were off, racing down the avenue to the alarm."

Many changes and renovations occurred in this city hall from time to time, and it served its citizens well. In 1940, when it became necessary

³¹*Wyandotte Herald*, December 9, 1881, "The cooler was dedicated last Tuesday night by John Martin. The bedrooms in that hotel are rather cramped, but the stone floor and ceilings are too costly to be extensive."

to abandon the building to make way for progress, there were many persons in Wyandotte who had aching throats from an indescribable something as they watched the bricks being hurled to the ground—hurling memories of mud streets; horse-drawn fire engines; the engine house club of story tellers, who used to gather there to fight out the future problems of Wyandotte in their own inimitable manner—well-meaning, austere Mrs. Briggs' attempts to educate and direct the youth in the cultured and intellectual paths of life—memories of fire horses; of one in particular "who, after he was sold to a milk company when he became too old for service, raced after the fire engine, dragging his wagon load of milk behind him as he responded to the fire bell." But time stops for no man or his memories. A new hall bearing the records of the past would carry on the rough and combative governmental spirit born in the 1880's.



Old Brown School, Chestnut Street

OLD BROWN SCHOOL 1856-1887. No person or name brings brighter smiles to the lips or more joyous tears to the eyes of the early pioneers than the three colorless words, Old Brown School.

Indeed, it was OLD—one of the oldest buildings in the city. Various dates have been suggested so that we have to say that it was built sometime between 1842-1856. Yes, it was painted a dull BROWN, colorless to the eye but oh so colorful to the heart. SCHOOL—the word that

made the boys and girls of yesteryear wince, as mother called in the morning! It meant getting up in a hurry, dressing on cold winter days before a wood stove, teeth chattering, and yearning longingly for a fishing trip to the river or watching the blast furnace on warm spring days. It meant trudging along dirt roads, lunch bucket in hand to Chestnut Street, present location of the Masonic Temple, on the east side of the creek to spend tedious hours learning "readin," "ritin," "rithmetic"—dreaming of the time when they could carry a lunch bucket with Dad to the Eureka Iron Works. E. C. Bryan, Edward Milspaugh, Mrs. Lorenzo Baily, Mae Girardin, Elmer Busha, Arthur Ford, John C. Cahalan, Fred Van Alstyne, Alphin Miller, Mrs. Belle Eby Babcock, Johnny Teeling, John Beattie, Fred and John Wolcott were just a few of the names answering the roll call in the Old Brown School. Many remember fondly such teachers as Oscar Strait, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Mulholland, Miss Eva Leighton, Minnie Johnson, Katie Hoyt, and Professor Hoyt, who later became the Dr. C. O. Hoyt, superintendent of the training school at Michigan State Normal College at Ypsilanti in 1897.

Frank E. Nellis recalls that in this Old Brown School he "was seized with an ambition to become president of the United States, afterwards abandoned with rare self-abnegation on account of alien birth." Other pioneers join him in remembering also that here "the rod was spoiled but the child was not spared, the boys walking up and taking lickings with martyred countenances and their breeches full of leaves. It will be remembered that at one time they didn't have a clock and the whole room was allowed to run pell-mell for the door when the Mill's big whistle sounded its meridian blast—an arrangement that worked all the better during the tutelage of the deaf teacher, when the boys would anticipate the whistle by roaring through their hands and thus escape at 11:30 thereabouts."

The Old Brown School was a "one story, one room building with an addition at the back. Large folding-doors separated the two rooms and during events of grave importance such as Recitations and Exercises the doors were folded back and the school became one room." "Clark's Grammar or 'Analysis' and spelling lessons were highlights of the curriculum. The whole school took part in the spelling bees where they were arranged around the wall, and those failing in words were sent to the foot of the row, the good spellers moving to the front."

All was not work and learning in this historic building. Wyandotters also laughed, played, prayed, and sang here. During all these years

when the building was serving as a school, it was also a community center, used for many kinds of meetings and informal gatherings. It was the birthplace of at least three of Wyandotte's Protestant churches—the Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopalian. The first regular meeting of the Common Council “convened April 18, 1867, in the school house in the first ward.”

In 1887 the building was abandoned for school purposes and a still more varied career continued. In 1888 it was called the “Wyandotte Opera House.” Stock companies played “East Lynn” and “Ten Nights in a Barroom” to delighted and horrified audiences in the ex-Brown School. Respectively, the building followed in service as a roller-skating rink, a dancing academy, Salvation Army barracks, pump works, and as warehouse for the J. H. Bishop Company. In 1893 the Congregational Church added its services to the building's varied functions. When the Congregationalists moved into their new church, the Brown School, which had never been forced to beg for a tenant, was immediately purchased from J. H. Bishop by the I. O. O. F. lodge. The walls echoed for six more years with colorful ceremonies and zestful parties.

In 1910 the laughter, the playing, the working, the praying ceased forever. The Old Brown School days were over—an apartment house on Third Street its future. It is an appropriate finish for a building filled with much human interest and lore to extend in retirement its walls as a comfortable home and sheltered protection for the younger generations which follow.

MARX OPERA HOUSE 1896-1931. Before the advent of the Marx Opera House, recreational interests of the city had to find expression in halls and community centers designed for more business-like and commercial activities. The Marx Opera House was the first building in the city to have been constructed with the single purpose of providing a theater for entertainment features.

The Marx estate initiated this enterprise, erecting the building on a site located on the west side of Biddle Avenue between Maple and Sycamore, later occupied by the First National Bank. Today the Modern World Mart. household appliance store, marks the site. The original theater at this location was destroyed by a devastating fire in June 1908 and a new structure was rebuilt in 1910 at the corner of Maple and Sycamore, the present location of the Kresge store.

The grand opening of the first theater was set for Friday and Saturday, October 8, 9, 1896. Excitement ran high in the city, anticipating the

luxury of fine entertainment in elaborate surroundings. When the *Wyandotte Herald* reporter called at the building the week before the opening, he described the scene for the satisfaction of the curious:

"I found a small army of decorators, carpenters, tinnerns, and plumbers at work in different parts of the building, all working hard to get things in apple pie order for the opening night. The auditorium measures 36 x 50 feet in size. The first floor will accommodate 350 people and the gallery 250 more. The first floor is built on a level so that it can be used for dances, but the gallery slopes down in the usual way. Seats on the first floor will be fastened in gangs, so that there will be little noise from moving about. Stairs will be covered with rubber and all aisles and passage ways will be carpeted.

"The house has a steel ceiling painted a light blue, with surrounding bands of brown and darker blue. The walls are decorated in terra cotta, with relief work in the shape of empire wreaths gilded. The decoration throughout surpasses anything seen in the city before. The opera house as well as the entire building will be heated by steam from a boiler located in the basement. . . . Electric lights will be used throughout. A very handsome electroler will depend from the ceiling, reinforced by single lamps at needed points.

"The stage measures 18 x 36 feet and is equipped not only with every necessity for the production of dramatic art but with the conveniences not always found. The dressing rooms are comfortably arranged and off from the stage are marble lavatories and closets fitted out in the best style. Very handsome scenery has been painted by Sosman and Laudis of the Chicago, the leading house of this kind in the West. The drop curtain, which is a beauty, represents a Venetian scene.

"The entrance to the house is at the south side of the building. Directly at the head of the stairs is located the ticket office and back of this an apartment that will be used as a check room during balls. Leaving the ticket window, patrons will pass along a hall leading to both floors of the house. A neat balcony opens above the entrance from which music will be discoursed."

The street floor of this building was given over to business purposes. James Murray opened a restaurant and bar in one half, and a hardware store under the management of William Marx occupied another section.

Frank Marx was announced as manager of the house. He prepared the citizens, who were unaccustomed to formality in their social customs, for the conduct that the theater would expect of its patrons. He codified a set of rules which were printed and posted on the walls of the theater and were labelled by the facetious, "Heaven's First Law."

"The following rules and regulations must be strictly observed by all persons entering or occupying seats in this opera house, and any person found violating any of the same will forfeit his right to a seat, or to remain in the house, and will be ejected by the officer in charge.

"No intoxicated person will be admitted.

"No pushing or crowding.

"No loud talking.

"No profane or obscene language.

"No whistling or other noise that would annoy the audience.

"No throwing of missiles.

"No smoking.

"No spitting on the floor.

"No stamping of feet.

"No defacing of seats or any part of the house.

"We purpose to do everything possible for the comfort and convenience of our patrons, and to keep the house first-class in every respect, and we trust that every person enjoying its privileges will do all in his power to assist us to that end."

In return for this respectful and well-mannered conduct, Mr. Marx assured the people in the confidence of bookings of good companies and the pride of an entertainment palace operated in a first class manner.

The opening entertainment program featured Bert St. John's vaudeville troupe. The first act was a comedy entitled "Domestic Felicity," followed by Georgie St. John, prima donna soprano, in ballads. Hal S. Stephens and Bett St. John featured songs and stories in mimic and dialect. Alex Cramer played banjo numbers, and two other dramatic skits, "Disgusted" and "Lorenzo's Bride," closed the showings. Warwick's orchestra furnished the music.

From the date of the opening night Wyandotters spent many delightful evenings listening to melodramatic road shows or participating in productions of local talent. Here, too, were staged many social events.

The first use of the theater for a social gathering was the dance of the Rob Roy Pleasure Club October 13, 1896. Throughout the years of the theater's existence, seats in the main auditorium were removed many times for the balls and dances of the Bachelors Club, the Rob Roy, and other social groups.

With Wyandotte located between Detroit and Toledo, it was in a position to see the best amusements. Many companies that appeared at the Detroit Opera House and other leading playhouses in both Detroit and Toledo played here since it was possible to book Wyandotte as an extra run because of its geographic location.

A few of the name productions are remembered as "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Peck's Bad Boy," "Romeo and Juliet," "East Lynn," "Too Proud to Beg," "The James in Missouri," "On the Bridge at Midnite," "Monte Cristo," "The Country Kid," "The Flaming Arrow," "Faust," "The Little Red School House," "Finnegan's 400," and the "Chicago Fire." Other program listings may be followed in the old newspapers of the period.

The Marx theater which was erected after the fire in 1910 at the corner of Sycamore and Biddle was designed on one floor and devoted its interest to stage plays and moving pictures in the later years. The razing of this block in 1931 for the construction of modern store buildings left only the ghost of the Marx Theater's name to haunt the city with memories of good times in the "good old days."



Wyandotte Savings Bank Building

Built in 1860 as office of Eureka Iron and Steel Company, seen in background. Oldest building in city.

WYANDOTTE SAVINGS BANK 1871. It would be like "carrying coals to Newcastle" to attempt to tell the people of this section about the banking firm of Wyandotte Savings. Eighty-two years with only two presidents, father and son, is the unique record of this bank.

Before the founding of the bank, it was necessary for the Eureka Iron Company to carry on its financial transactions in Detroit. Pay day meant traveling to Detroit often times on horseback for the necessary

funds. It was a hazardous procedure in a town whose industry attracted the rougher characters. There is a pioneer story to the effect that when Sylvester Pray was paymaster it was his custom to sleep with a revolver under his pillow after returning from Detroit with the pay roll. One night his wife arose to close a window. Immediately Mr. Pray was on his feet ready to shoot. Only the soft-spoken words of his wife saved her from sudden death. Such emergencies, added to the influx of tramps and the lack of adequate police protection, motivated the pressing need for a bank. The bank was founded in 1871 by Mr. John Van Alstyne, manager of the Eureka Iron Works, in the same building which stands today at the corner of Elm and Biddle Avenue. The south side was used for the office of the company and the north side for the bank. Financial welfare of the city was not all this building represented. The third floor played an important role in the social life of the city. High School graduations, school plays, lectures, masquerades, dances, dramatic presentations, and concerts were listed on the calendar of events at the Bank Hall. From time to time organizations such as the Sons of Rest and the Masonic Lodge used the hall also as clubrooms.

Mr. Fred Van Alstyne remembers an amusing story in which he was an active participant as a small boy. The occasion was a school play under the direction of Miss Belle Widner. A large audience had assembled in the Bank Hall waiting for the curtain to rise. The opening scene was to have a fire episode, so Miss Widner whispered stage directions "Fire" to a pupil who didn't hear the command, and another pupil in a more audible voice relayed the message which reached the ears of the waiting audience who, immediately surmising danger, quietly and in an orderly fashion filed out of the Hall, gathering across the road near Weaver's store of today to await results. When the stage curtain arose on an empty hall, considerable confusion developed until the audience was reassured and returned for the evening's performance.

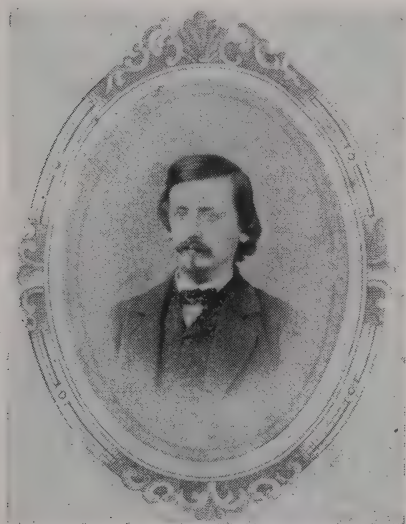
Today the building stands as the oldest in the city with fewer alterations than any other building since its construction in 1860. The bank has seen and helped Wyandotte grow from a village into a city of homes, great industries, and small, sound businesses. It has weathered depressions and crises, local, state, and national, and has always emerged stronger to take an even greater part in the growth of the community.

Mercantile Interests

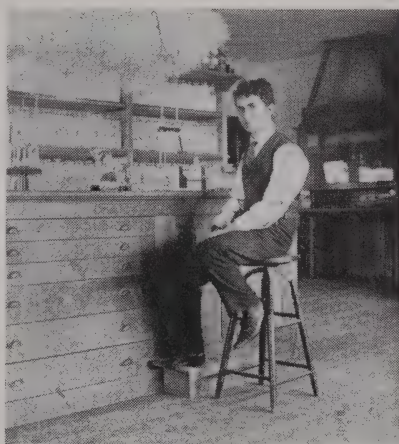
Mercantile interests were also a necessary development of a sustaining village life. The Eureka Iron Company encouraged business establishments for their village by pointing out that:

"to supply the wants of the large number of operatives which the present and prospective manufacturing establishments must employ, will require merchants, traders, and every variety of mechanics, who have a rare opportunity presented them of securing homes for themselves and families, at a moderate outlay of capital, which by the steady and rapid increase in the value of real estate within a few years, will render them independent. The inducements held out to actual settlers are so favorable that every poor man who is at all inclined to industry and economy, can in a few years secure a homestead and competency."

In answer to this advertisement many merchants took their chances of prosperity with the budding village. During the pioneer period few cities of the size of Wyandotte were better represented in a mercantile way. There were upwards of thirty stores of all kinds in which every type of trade was represented.



Charles W. Thomas, the first druggist



Interior, C. W. Thomas' Drug Store,
Isaac Strong at the counter, 1890's

FIRSTS. The first drug store which served as a first aid station and town communication center was opened by Charles Thomas in 1863 in the middle of the block, west side of Biddle Avenue between Oak and Elm streets. This store continued to satisfy the needs of the people over a long period of time under the management of Charles Thomas, Jr., until 1928 when he retired and leased the building to the Woolworth Five and Ten Cents store. Charles Thomas III of the present generation did not follow the pharmaceutical profession but still holds the property in the Thomas name, having leased the building to the Asmus Brothers Hardware Company for a China Shop.

For many years two large jars of colored water stood in the window of the Thomas' store as a trademark. Many a political argument and local gossip were decided and discussed around the stove in this historic shop.

The question of the first stores in other fields of trade has proven to be a debatable one. Both John Bittorf and A. W. Milkins have been mentioned as the first butchers in town. Mrs. Frank Sunderland, a daughter of A. W. Milkins, relates that her father opened the first butcher shop at the corner of Eureka and Biddle Avenue which was later sold to John Bittorf. There is no date available to verify this event or transaction. The founding date of John Bittorf's Butcher Shop has been recorded at 1866. The Bittorf store was opened at the southwest corner of Biddle Avenue and Eureka. Mr. Bittorf served the public faithfully until 1886 when he retired to a farm on Eureka Road located between Sixteenth and Twenty-third streets with comparisons on the map of Wyandotte in 1954. The family lived above the store and one of the older girls, Lena (Cadaret), supplied the need of her father for a son by acting as helper and "delivery boy." In the year 1953 at the age of 93 this "delivery boy" relates:

"Those were the good old days. Everybody worked and worked hard. All of the girls had to work in the store but since I didn't want to go to school I spent more time than the others helping Dad. We used to go out into the country ourselves for the meat, oftentimes doing our own slaughtering. It was my job to go to the homes and take the orders, returning to the store to put them up and then starting out again later in the day to deliver."³²

The scope of the service offered by this pioneer butcher shop is best described by advertisements which appeared in the early *Wyandotte Herald* newspapers.

BITTORF'S

Dealer in all kinds of meat—fresh and salted
 Corner of Biddle and Eureka
 Vessels supplied on short notice
 Boarding houses furnished at reasonable rates
 Meats delivered to all parts of the city.

These advertisements should have included the added phrase "delivery to all parts of the country also." Lena Bittorf Cadaret recalls vividly the long distance she used to travel to the Emmons Farm, the Emmons Boulevard region of today. In the 1870's with the slow moving wagon this was a tiring and frightening journey into a deep dark woods. The reward, however, was the insistence of the Emmons family's hired

³²Transcribed from tape recording interview, November, 1953.



Mr. and Mrs. John Bittorf's Golden Wedding Anniversary, 1905

Left to right, the daughters: Mary Bittorf Megges, Catherine B. Brown, Margaret B. Sink, Magdeline "Lena" Cadaret (the "delivery boy"), Emma Bittorf.



Bittorf family on a picnic. Wagon in background used by Thon's for pallbearers. Center, John Bittorf; right end, Dr. Edward Megges.

girl that Jed Emmons escort Lena Bittorf safely back to the butcher shop, a task Jed didn't appreciate, since for him it meant a long return journey.

Frank Brohl and Matthew Kasper present a problem in determining which may be declared the first baker. A newspaper account states that "Frank Brohl in co-operation with Matthew Kasper opened the first bakery on Biddle Avenue in the basement of the Hoersch block," present location of Ed Brohl's Clothing, west side of

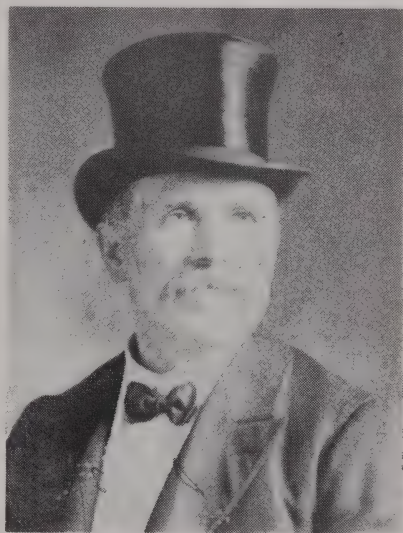


Joseph Brohl Bakery Wagon. Left to right, Joseph Brohl, Frank Brohl, the first baker, boy Lesiic, unknown.

Biddle Avenue between Elm and Oak. The entrance to the basement faced Elm street since the corner lot was vacant at that early date of 1868. This theory of co-operation of Frank Brohl and Matthew Kasper is credited by only one member of the Brohl family. Mrs. Michael Havican, daughter of Matthew Kasper, believes her father was in business by himself in the basement of the Hoersch building and that he later moved to a location south side of Oak street between First and Second streets. The date 1865 has been printed and further verified by the descendants of Frank Brohl as the opening date of the Brohl bakery on the same spot it occupies today, the south side of Eureka

between Second and Third streets. For 88 years Wyandotters have served Brohl's baked goods on their tables purchased in the same Eureka Avenue location. A son, George, picked up the kneading of the dough when the hands of Frank faltered. Another son, Joseph, sought independent operation by purchasing the bake shop of Mrs. Pearce on First street, occupied now by Jager Hardware Store. In 1905 Joseph moved to a store on the north side of Elm street between Second and Third, presently housing the Krutsch Heating. Until the 1930's two Brohl bakeries dispensed cookies and cakes, pies and bread for hungry families.

Agreement is unanimous that the H. F. Thon Funeral Home was the first in the village. As early as 1857 J. F. W. Thon, a carpenter by trade, took care of the village's sorrows in home-made caskets shaped to fit the human body, similar in style to Egyptian mummy cases. By 1865 his son, Henry, took a dominant role in the business after the father purchased a store at the southwest corner of Sycamore and Biddle Avenues on the site of the present Cunningham Drug store. Furniture was the customary added commodity of that period. The Thons, father and son, continued to make their own caskets in a factory at the foot of Chestnut on Van Alstyne. Since funeral equipment was limited in those days John Bittorf furnished his wagon for the pall bearers. Just as this wagon served to travel into the farm



Henry Thon, undertaker

country and bring back the poultry, beef, pork, and lamb to satisfy the living, so in turn it bore the burden of six pallbearers for the dead when Henry Thon presented the occasion. The hearse is remembered by the children of yesteryears in a spirit of adventure. What fun it was to run to the road side to see which colored plumes were attached to the four corners of the burial carriage! Black—an older person, black and white—middle age, white—a child or young person.

Their store building acquired historic significance as the meeting place for the city council until the erection of the City Hall in 1880.

From 1857 to 1954 the name Thon has helped the town bear the weight of its griefs with comfort, dignity and confidence as reflected in 1887 when it was noted that:

“the remains of Mrs. Ann Murray (wife of James Murray, a roll turner in the Eureka Iron and Steel Works) arrived in Youngstown, Ohio, in a perfect state of preservation—a fact that reflects great credit on the undertakers in charge, Messrs. H. and C. Thon of this city.”

From time to time changes were made in management, yet the name Thon always remained. After the death of William, the father, Christian, a brother of Henry, entered the firm and the name became H. and C. Thon. When Christian died, Henry continued to conduct the business under the same name until 1917 when he received as partners Henry L. Graunstadt and Archie P. Stiles. The firm's name was then altered to Henry F. Thon and Company. Archie P. Stiles was a son-in-law of Henry Thon, having married his daughter, May. In 1935 the historic location at the corner of Sycamore and Biddle avenues had fulfilled its usefulness and the company moved to the present funeral home at the corner of Chestnut and Biddle Avenues.

In the present period of Wyandotte history no member of the Thon family is connected with the company, the business interest having passed to Henry Graunstadt at the time of the death of Archie Stiles in 1947. Trevor Herrick became associated with the firm in 1937.

Eberts Brothers Coal Company is another “first” name which we witness daily as ponderous ready-mix cement trucks roll down the Wyandotte streets. John Eberts, the father, established the first coal yard in Wyandotte. Romance played a part in this enterprise. Young John, wishing to provide the best home and comforts for his bride, purchased a Crown Jewell burner for the new home erected at the corner of First and Vinewood streets. At that time he was one of Wyandotte's painters and decorators with business offices in a wooden structure just back of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on First street. In order to use the new stove, John found it necessary to buy a carload of coal for winter use. Whereupon friends and neighbors entreated John to help them enjoy the same comforts of a coal base burner. Soon John found himself in the coal and cordwood business. From that day to this, keeping the home fires burning and adding the services of cement, brick, and other materials necessary for the construction of homes and buildings wherein the warming fires must burn, have never slackened.

John started the coal business in 1874. His first business venture was

in the grocery store at the northwest corner of Oak and First streets. Elijah Goodell of Ecorse was his partner. Giving this up he went into the decorating, glazing, paper and painting shop in the Agricultural Building at the southeast corner of Biddle and Pine where the police station is now located. Later he moved to the J. S. Johnson Blacksmith shop on the east side of First street between Chestnut and Oak. On November 14, 1890, John Eberts bought 3 lots from Mathias Hilton on Front Street between Walnut and Poplar for \$1,000. The lots form a part of the present Eberts Brothers Company location. After 18 years of business activities, he retired and devoted his time to real-estate. In 1895 Harry, a son, decided to re-enter the coal business. It was noted "that he had erected a neat office near D. H. Burrell's mills, carrying all grades of coal and wood." He was joined by Frank H. in 1897 and by the younger brother, Walter, in 1907. In 1910 the firm was incorporated as a company with Harry L. Eberts listed as President, Frank Marx, Vice-President, Frank H. Eberts, Treasurer, and Walter Lacey Eberts as Secretary. A sister, Edith, also joined the office management and helped to develop the business over a period of many years. The *Wyandotte Herald* forecast the importance of this firm in Wyandotte's history with this headline on May 2, 1913:

"EBERTS BROTHERS COMPANY, A \$100,000 CONCERN.

The company has purchased from Frank Marx, the entire block bounded by Front, Poplar, and Walnut streets and extending east to the channel bank of the river—its acquirement by the Eberts Brothers Company evinces a foresight that will become more and more apparent as the years roll by."

The first store building without designation as to type of trade was recorded as erected at the northeast corner of Biddle and Elm streets. It was moved to the southeast corner of Oak and First in later years and used as a saloon and Larabee's basket factory. In 1887, it was torn down.

There is an indication that the business of this first store may have been Eby's General Dry Goods recorded as having been located on this same corner in 1856. In 1855 William Sickles occupied this same corner as a general store proprietor and postmaster. In the post office history, E. B. Eby is recorded as postmaster on this corner in 1856. It is more than likely that either Mr. Sickles or Mr. Henry Eby should be considered "a first."³⁸

The first brick block is credited to the Hoersch building with the date

³⁸Mr. Widner Lacy believes, however, that his father, Peter Lacy, in co-operation with Robert Leighton opened the first general store, Lacy and Leighton, in Wyandotte about 1855.

1868 clearly and definitely on the insignia brick beneath the eaves.

1867

Faded records leave more details of early mercantile enterprises to conjecture until 1867 when the first newspaper, the *Wyandotte Courier*, advertised the following businesses: George Baker, brother-in-law of Sylvester Pray, as commission agent; William J. Baxter, grocer; Silas Clark, hardware, east side of Biddle between Oak and Elm streets; M. Cohen, dry goods in the Johnson Hotel block, between Oak and Elm; J. W. Whitehead, merchant tailor, located opposite rolling mills east side of Biddle; Denman and Nelson, hardware, likewise opposite the rolling mills; S. H. and W. H. Farnsworth General Store, south of Eureka avenue; Charles Fitshugh, mason and plasterer; John Hoersch General Store; R. W. Leighton General Store, south of Eureka avenue; John Smith, billiard hall in Farnsworth block; Henry Wittecomb, a music dealer from Detroit; and Henry Williams Feed Store. The Williams store was first located at the dock corner of Front and Oak streets near the river, the present location of the Marx Furniture Store. Later Mr. Williams moved to a location on the west side of Biddle between Maple and Sycamore streets. This store has long been remembered for a white statue of a horse's head which stood in the window as a trademark. A scale stood outside of the entrance on the board walk. The Williams Store continued in operation in Wyandotte throughout the years until 1895.

1870

Another decade passed and more merchants erected signs and opened their doors to business in the early morning hours.

In the 1870's the distinctive features of Nelson Dupy's Grocery lingered in the memories. The Dupy store was located at the northwest corner of Oak and First streets and was a large wooden structure with a long porch, a typical old style country store. A board fence surrounded the yard. It was no task for the children to run to Dupy's on errands because Mr. Dupy always gave them a ride on his wagon drawn by a white horse and with the driver's seat protected by a colorful fringed umbrella. From 1875-1897 the Dupy name remained registered in city mercantile history.

Another store beloved by the children was the "I Wish I Had a Penny Store" otherwise known to their parents as Stormont's Toys and Candy. The "penny attraction" was ideally located on the east side of Biddle between Chestnut and Oak streets, near the Old Brown School on Chest-



Nelson Dupy, the grocer, at the corner of Elm and Biddle Avenue

nut street. The location of Harry Rouse real estate office today shares memories of this store. It was a rare day for Mr. Stormont not to see a row of flattened noses pressed against the window glass, and to hear a concert of sighs as each one confided to his friend, "Oh, I wish I had a penny." Inside were china headed dolls, attractive toys and such unusual candies—gum drops, licorice, suckers with sweet wood sticks, and fancy kinds in odd shapes and sizes, candies in bright colors, coconut sticks in pink, white and brown stripes, hard candies that would last a long time—and for only one precious penny. The penny didn't need to be bright and new, just any old penny would do. Such a penny would bring happiness and satisfaction if spent at Stormont's. In 1887 John Franklin bought the store and continued its traditions until 1913.

Fourth of July, 1870, marked the opening of the Warmbier Grocery at the corner of Second and Elm streets. The first sale from the store was a box of matches for use in the "glorious celebration." Mr. Warmbier "always considered this incident an omen of good luck" since his business continued to prosper into the twentieth century. In 1880 Charles Sr. transferred his business to Charles Jr. who achieved the distinction of being one of Wyandotte's oldest merchants when he retired in the early 1920's.

At that time, the A & P Super Market entered business in this historic store and the office of the Municipal Light Service today carries the Warmbier name on the identification brick of the building.

Christopher Warmbier, a brother of Charles Jr., opened his own store at the corner of Orange and Third streets in the middle of the 1880's and continued to dispense merchandise from that site for forty-five years until his death in 1931. The Warmbier name, however, lingered in the business life of the city with the name of Charles J. Warmbier, the son of Christopher. He was operating a bar and billiard hall on Maple street at the time of his death in 1951.

Other business names erected across store fronts in the 1870's were: *General Stores*—Armstrong and Guttridge, Bird and Company, Richard Cahalan, Davis Brothers, with Anspach and Pulvermacher, William Eilbert, Louis George, Jacob Kunze continuing their businesses through the 1880's; *Furniture*—A. Gibson, supplementing Henry Thon; *Hardware*—Silas Clark and Alfred Plumb; *Farm Implements*—John Haubrick and Daniel Roberts; *Jewelry*—Engelbert Grimm, W. J. Porter, Frank Reinman, and John Tucker (who continued in business through the 1880's); *Clothing*—Oliver D. Hibbard, and John A. Morgan; *Dry Goods*—Huss and Bloom, Gustave Kaufman, Ratzek and Company; *Boots and Shoes (including shoemakers)*—John Beatty, Frank Sill (who continued on through the 1880's), and Valentine Weingartner (in business throughout the 1890's), John Eil, James Gibson, Philip Kilzer, and Feliz Moran; *Flour and Feed*—Henry Eichman, Russell Johnson, Stiles and White, Joseph Susor, and Hiram Tipton; *Grocers*—Joseph Gartner, who operated his business for ten years until the 1880's, J. A. Bosset, John Coelin, Joseph Ely, J. F. W. Hoersch, Isaac Strong, R. F. Johnson, and G. H. McDougall; *Meats*—Gustave Baumler, a name which continued in Wyandotte business life in trades of restaurant, saloon, and hotel, and three names which were associated with the meat interest for more than twenty-five years in the city, Conrad, Charles, John, Clarence, and Louis Bigler; Philip Potter (1873-1895), George Thon and son, Reinhold (1875-1892); Oliver Colburn was also a meat dealer during this decade; *Barbers*—Charles and Thomas Collins, Samuel Dushane and Adam Honsses; *Real Estate and Insurance*—George Baker, Richard Jones, John Nellis, and Daniel Roberts (who continued through the 1880's); *Lumber*—Ira Abbott, Emmons and Hurst, later James T. Hurst, Leighton and Stillson, later John Stillson, John Sterling; *Druggists*—John Bennett, John B. Miles, Egbert T. Webb; *Harness Makers and Blacksmiths*—Marlen Coan, Enoch Creig, G. Henry, Jo-

siah Johnson (with son later covering a span of years until 1893), Antoine Maloch, and A. Miller; *Fruits, Confectionery, and Cigar Stands*—Lorenzo P. Milkins, Samuel Shelley, H. Traub and James Whitehead; *Photography*—Mary J. Cope and W. W. Davison; *Painter*—J. W. Lyons; *Plumber*—Thomas R. Watkins; *Women's Services*—James Hicks (fancy goods), Mrs. William Lacy (dressmaker), Mrs. Mary Longtin, Mrs. S. E. Usher and Mrs. Thomas Watkins (milliners), John Secord (sewing machines). Last, but not the least important in the city's business life, were the saloon keepers who frequently combined restaurant facilities with their bars, Joseph Beledo, Walter S. Bell, John Bourke, Nicholas Kasper, H. Coelin, John Debo (continued into 1880's), William Eilbert (continued into 1880's), Charles Genthe, F. R. Green, Archibald Hunter (continued into 1880's), Peter Mauren (continued into 1880's), Michael Murphy, A. Quinn, James Maloch, Charles Schuffert (continued into 1890's), Adolph Schultz, William Walther (continued into 1880's), and John Werich.

1880

In the 1880's earlier tradesmen began to look toward retirement and new names replaced the old, many of which continued in business until the 1890's: *General Stores*—Paul Adolph, Denman and Adolph, William Gartner, Louis George, Theodore Mehlhose and Adolph Smith, Charles Saunders and Charles Stone; *Furniture*—Frank George, who later changed his merchandise for boots and shoes; *Hardware*—C. F. Babcock, Adolph Beren, Everett N. Clark, Frank Karth, William Laffey, and Charles T. Sill; *Farm Implements*—John Kreger and David and William Roberts; *Jewelry*—John Thrasher; *Clothing (especially men's furnishings) and Tailoring*—William Morganthau, Squire Bros., Charles Siemon, Mildred Lawler; *Dry Goods*—James Keusch; *Boots and Shoes*—Marlin Coan, August Hoffman (continued through the 1890's), Jacob Kohlzer (Kohler), William J. Kreger, Louis P. Miller, Frederick Neuman, Henry Pelandt, Andrew Phillips, Henry Roehrig, Elie Sabel, Thomas Walsh; *Flour and Feed*—George Pardington and John Clee (who changed his merchandise to mineral paint in 1890's); *Grocers*—John Cole, Henry Davis Company, Jeremiah Drannan (continued into 1890's), Mary Eilbert, Mrs. Susan Kunze, August Liptow, McCleery and Craig (who continued into the 1890's), Hugo Mehlhose, Bernard O'Rorke, Michael Quinnan, Thomas Raynard (continued into the 1890's), Alexander Riopelle, Frank Stieler (whose wife conducted the small confectionery business in the 1890's) and Christian Thon; *Meats*—Theodore Isabell and Peter Beaubien, August Tacke, supple-

menting those other shops started in the 1870's; *Bakeries*—supplementing Brohl and Kaspers—Curriers and Company, Emil Eschiak, and Vienna Bakery; *Barbers*—Albert and Robert B. Cook, John and Edward Fury, Michael Graham, Thomas Hogg, Felix Leroy, Julius J. Tilmann and Daniel Roberts; *Lumber*—Oscar Brinton and Brenton and Hoffman, James Heintzen, William Lacy, later Lacy and Hurst, and B. W. Simington and Company; *Druggist*—Dr. Noah Shepardson, besides the Cahalan, Thomas; *Harness Makers and Blacksmiths*—John Brown, Daniel Campau, Theodore Gabriel, Theodore Helmer, Josiah S. Johnson, and Arthur Lacy (both continued into the 1890's) and Joseph Sweet; *Fruits, Confectionery, and Cigar Stands*—Adolph Antaya, Mrs. William J. Kreger, Joseph Loselle, Miss Mary McGuckin, Miss Mary Murphy, and Mrs. Mary White; *Photography*—William D. French; *Painters*—Winter and Shaw; *Coal Dealers*—(besides John Eberts)



Tacke Meat Shop Delivery Wagon; Fred Tacke, driver, Arthur LeFleur, boy. E. W. Speck Barber Shop in background.

John P. Denison, F. C. Engfehr; *Carpenters*—William Bellville, Charles Beufa, and Alesium Longtin, who plied his trade until the 20th century; *Women's Services*—Mrs. Elizabeth Collard—hairgoods, Mrs. Matilda Bailey and Mrs. Mary Deibler—milliners, Mrs. Bertha Beufa—dress-maker, Stickneys and Mrs. Sarah Hawkins—notions, Albert Jaehnke, Henry C. Corbin, besides Daniel Roberts—sewing machines, and John Bower—laundry. *The Traditional Saloons*—James Bailey, Mathias Eil-

berg, David Frank, Gorman and McCloy, Henry Guenther, Lawrence Heide, John McSorley, Theodore Megges, Felix Moran, Charles Tapper, John Teeling, Newton Tewksbury, John Theis, and Thomas Toomey. Beamers' Shooting Gallery advertised a place "where parties can be sure to enjoy a little sport and not be annoyed. No liquors of any kind will be sold."



Loeffler's Dry Goods Store. Present location of the Home Furnishing Co.



Julius Thiede, barber, Joseph Girardin in chair, 1890

In this period the story of one of Wyandotte's largest department stores, Loeffler's, began:

"In 1881 August Loeffler first engaged in business in the then small city of Wyandotte. The business was not one of large proportions, but met the requirements of the time. As the city increased in population and importance the little store grew into a large one, and that into the present great bazaar of A. Loeffler & Co. In fact, to write the story of this house is to write the story of commercial advancement of Wyandotte during the last three decades.

"Mr. Loeffler conducted the business alone until 1905, when W. J. F. Thon and William Mehlhose, two employees who had literally grown up in the business, were admitted to a co-partnership under the firm name of A. Loeffler & Company.

"The fame of Loeffler's as a trading place has spread beyond the limits of Wyandotte and a visit to the city by folks for miles around would be incomplete without a call at Loeffler's. The trade of this house has been gained and retained by honest, fair dealing. Goods are never misrepresented, and it has become a trite saying hereabouts, 'If you get it at Loeffler's, it's right.'

"The house is joined to its patrons by threads of common interests woven into the warp of mutual confidence.

"The casual passerby cannot fail but be attracted by the two great show windows of the front of the store, where are displayed in a style that is pleasing to the cultivated taste some of the varied wares on sale inside. The inviting window display is irresistible, and the passerby passes in through the broad portals, where the impression received from the windows is augmented.

"Four counters extend the full length of the well-lighted interior, and on every hand are displayed, in a manner which makes buying at Loeffler's a pleasure, dry goods, silks, linens, ribbons, blankets, hosiery, underwear, patterns, corsets, leather goods, holiday goods, toilet articles, fancy goods, laces, dress goods, gloves, trimmings and hundreds of articles usual in a first-class dry goods emporium. The office of the cashier is located on this floor, or rather on a raised section of it. This office is connected with every part of the store by a Lamson cash conveying system. This floor is under the supervision of Mr. William Mehlhose, who has under his direction intelligent, polite, and attractive salespeople.

"The second floor is reached by an elevator or easy stairway. Here are displayed ladies' suits, cloaks, coats, wraps, children's and infants' garments. The millinery department on this floor is under the competent management of Miss Fishleigh, whose cultivated taste is everywhere in evidence in the bewildering array of creations in ladies' headwear, styles designed by millinery artists of the great cities of this country and reproductions of Parisian models are here shown. The display has an air of quiet elegance about it that attracts the feminine eye and has made Loeffler's the Mecca for those on millinery bent. The carpet and rug department is also on this floor and the most complete line of goods in these lines in the city is here shown including carpets, room sizes, rugs, oil cloth, linoleums, draperies, wall papers, and window shades. In all these lines the stock is complete and includes new and beautiful patterns, shades and combinations of colors. . . . A feature of the store is a complete steam outfit for sponging cloths and also the stamping of various articles. . . ."

Today, the Home Furnishing Company occupies this store's site. At the time of his death, Mr. Loeffler was one of the oldest merchants in Michigan and also the oldest in this district.

On St. Patrick's Day in 1886 Miss Mary Sullivan opened the business which brought a shine to the eyes, a smile to the lips, and happiness to the heart of every woman in Wyandotte—a hat shop. She opened the store at the corner of Eureka and Biddle Avenues and after several moves took occupancy of the choice corner Elm and First Streets, now known as the Ideal Paper Store. Large hats, small hats, hats with flowers, feathers, and veils, some to be worn tilted to the right, some to be placed jauntily on the left, others to perch with dignity squarely on top of mounds of luxurious hair, were to be found at Mary Sullivan's. It was the custom in those days to achieve individuality by purchasing a basic hat and the

trimmings separately. The role of the milliner was to design each hat to suit the personality of the patron. From the pioneer days until 1939 women of Wyandotte eased the stress of emotional pressures, relieved the boredom of their home cares, or found the added touch of beauty to adorn their persons for a most particular social occasion with a new hat purchased under the guidance of Mary Sullivan.

The character of "I Wish I Had a Penny Store" continued to the pleasure of all concerned after Mr. Stormont sold out to John Franklin in 1887. Mr. Franklin's association with the people was more "out" of the store than "in." He was a very familiar figure coming and going from the depot with his stack of Detroit newspapers and magazines. In the winter time a sleigh instead of the usual wagon was the trademark. Up and down and all around the town he drove delivering the papers on the doorsteps of the subscribers and chatting with each and everyone who had time for the pleasantries of the day. Lena Bittorf Cadaret remembers the impatience of her mother and sisters watching dinners get cold while Mr. Franklin and her father "blahed, blahed, blahed."

It was Mr. Franklin's habit to stop in front of the Bittorf Meat Shop to permit the horse to feed on the grass and to refresh itself from the long journey delivering papers in the south end of town. Time did wait in those days for the beneficial grace of social intercourse. Later, the newspapers would come by street car, express, or boat. Toys, candy, costume jewelry, bric-a-brac, notions, ice-cream, and newspapers comprised the stock in this historic store. The Franklin name stayed with Wyandotte business until 1913.

During these 1880 years signs were erected across store fronts which have never been taken down except perhaps to wipe off the grime or brighten with neon lighting. The legendary names of Cahalan, Gartner, Kaul, Kreger, Mehlhose, and Melody are carrying traditions of the city along with the stock upon their shelves today.

Cahalan Drug Stores, Inc. was established in the Hoersch block as a general merchandising store in 1879 by Richard and John C. Cahalan. In 1880 another brother, James, graduated from McGill University and returned to Wyandotte. The store then changed to a drug store and has operated as such since that time. In 1885 the store was moved to the corner of Biddle and Elm, the present location of Weaver's Clothing Store. In 1897 this building was rented to the post office and the drug store moved to its present location on the west side of Biddle between Elm and Oak. In 1882 John McInerney, a nephew, joined the firm and continued as manager until his appointment as postmaster. In 1916 Clare

Allan became president and manager,⁸¹ continuing the business under its historic name. The business was incorporated at that time and an expansion program started which has included the establishment of three branches—Highland Avenue, Biddle Avenue at Davis Street, and Eureka Avenue. At the celebration of the company's sixtieth anniversary in 1939, it was observed "that the Cahalan Drug Store has been owned and operated by men of the best ethical and civic standing. They not only have been A-1 pharmacists and merchandisers but citizens of the highest standards."



Kaul's Department Store, 1882, Biddle Avenue

Kaul's Department Store is housed in the same building in which it was started in 1880 by John, Henry, and William Kaul. William died in 1894 and the business continued under the management of Henry until his death in 1928. John J., son of Henry, who started with the firm in 1911, continued as sole owner after Henry's demise in 1928. Since the close of World War II in 1946, John H. ("Jack") and Donald G. Kaul have entered the business with their father. Edward Kaul, an uncle of John J. Kaul, clerked in the store after his retirement from business in Trenton. It is in this store that the spirit of progress is ever on the alert at the same time that a genuine stability of stock is maintained. At Kaul's one will find the hard-to-match thread or the outmoded long underwear and warm gloves. A newcomer will often receive the life-saving advice, "go

⁸¹Died Feb. 1954. Mrs. Leta Allan, his wife, became president of the firm.

to Kaul's" if an emergency need cannot be found in the more modern type merchandising stores. Yet no store has conducted a more progressive program of modernization than Kaul's. The habit was started in 1888 when Kaul's was granted the distinction of having the first stone sidewalk. Likewise, at the same time, "neat and durable" hitching posts were erected in front of the store for the convenience of customers. In 1913 new show windows were installed. In 1939 the interior and front of the store were completely rebuilt and new fixtures installed, and in 1951-2 the external appearance was modernized with new show windows. The stock has always followed the general household needs from dry goods to clothing.

Two brothers, Joseph and Charles Gartner, founded the Gartner Hardware business in 1882 in approximately the same location which it occupies today. Their mother, Mary, had been in business first with Adolph Berens. After the dissolution of the business with Berens, she continued with her sons until her retirement in 1888. After the death of Joseph in 1900, Charles took steps to incorporate the business into a company in 1902, with Alphonse Jager, J. Loselle, and Joseph Loranger. Within a few years Charles Gartner purchased the stock of the other three partners and it became a family organization. Although Charles's time was considerably taken up with his business, no man was more generous with his time or efforts for the advancement of the city, and the name, Charles Gartner, is spread on the city records many times. These efforts in both business and civic activities are being followed by his sons, Joseph and Frederick Gartner. Throughout the history of the municipality the citizens have considered the name Gartner "synonymous with service and leadership."

Charles E. Kreger, who had an ambition to get to the "Big Town," sold his grocery stock in Taylor Center in 1888 and purchased approximately a half block of business frontage at the corner of Pine Street and Biddle Avenue. On that date began another business, Kreger Grocery & Meats, which has continued under the management of the same family into the second half of a century. What makes the history of this store so unusual is that many customers who are still "regulars" have been so for the entire 50 years. The original building was a large, frame structure which was moved back on Pine Street and converted into a two apartment dwelling. The present brick building was erected in 1913. In 1917 the announcement was made that Harvey, Ira, and Jesse were taking over the business upon the retirement of the father. In 1931 Jesse Kreger and his wife assumed sole ownership. In 1952 Ira Kreger and his son,

Charles, resumed active interest upon the retirement of Jesse. Since mortality is high in the grocery business, the Kreger enterprise has aroused national interest in trade circles.

The novelty of ice-cream was introduced to Wyandotte by the name Mehlhose. Hugo Mehlhose opened his business first as a merchant in candy and ice-cream. He claimed the distinction of being the first man to serve ice-cream sodas, although Fred Sanders of Detroit has likewise claimed the invention. After Hugo decided to place more emphasis on groceries and meats, his nephew, Gustave Mehlhose, son of Louis, who came to Wyandotte from Germany to work in the Rolling Mill in 1856, began the operation of an ice-cream factory about 1888 on Oak Street at Fourth. From that day to the present time, ice-cream has been manufactured by the Mehlhose family in the same location with the business actively carried on from the Fourth Street location instead of the Oak Street. In the pioneer days it was the only place in town where ice-cream could be bought in large quantities. Emerson Mehlhose, a son of Gustave, manages the business today.

The date 1895 on the insignia block of the Melody building of Biddle Avenue today leads many observers to deduce that the firm "Melody Brothers" began its business life in the city in that year. However, the inception of the firm started some years before the 1890's. The capacious store building was just a milestone in their long history in the city.

The Melody Brothers included James B., John T., and George O., who were all born in the city and were the sons of John Melody, a pioneer who came to Wyandotte in 1855 from Ireland to work in the Eureka Iron and Steel Company.

James B. gained experience in dry goods by working in the Loeffler store after his graduation from High School. In September 1888 Mr. Loeffler and James Melody purchased the Keusch Dry Goods Store, otherwise known as the "O. K. Store" on Oak Street. It opened under the name "Loeffler-Melody Dry Goods Store." Shortly afterward Mr. Loeffler sold his stock to James Melody, who continued alone until 1890. At that time James transferred his stock to the Cahalan block on Biddle Avenue and received as partner his brother, John T., in February 1891, at which time its name was changed to "Melody Brothers." Lucrative success promoted the building of the Melody block in 1895 where it continues today to carry on the tradition of merchandising under the management of Cecelia Melody Mix, daughter of James B. Another brother of James, George O., joined the firm in charge of the furnishing department at the time of the erection of the new building in 1895.

James B. Melody's daughter, Cecelia, opened her shop in October 1933. With a feminine interpretation of merchandising, she decided to specialize in hosiery, jewelry, and costume accessories, and to select the name "Cecelia Melody Shop." Since the opening date in 1933, store expansion programs have been carried on and the scope of merchandise increased to include books, dresses, girl scout materials, and also baby apparel and accessories under the name, "Lullaby Shop." In 1949 with the addition of a teen age department, the store found itself once again creeping back to the historic groove of furnishing everything for everybody, from grandmother to baby, presided over, however, with a feminine touch.

1890-1954

With the birth of the Michigan Alkali Company in the 1890's, private enterprise experienced a boom, and good business opportunities continued a steady march into the 20th century. An unusual advertisement to attract the eye was P. E. Atchison's agency for bicycles. This was the period in which bicycles became a craze.

Other names introduced into this period augmenting those businesses which carried over from the 1880's were: *General Stores*—Frederick Ginzle and William Spears; *Dry Goods and Clothing*—Edward George, Mrs. Harriet Longtin, Hyman Rosenthal and Kaul (Tom) and Cadaret; *Jewelry*—John W. Bowen, Fred. A. Killman, William Walther, McGlaughlin and Gorman; *Boots and Shoes and Shoemakers*—Reuben Coffall, William Fury, Joseph George, Louis Godbout, and Charles and Beatrice Schuffert; *Grocers*—Mrs. Ellen Campau, Eli Debo, William Gartner and Benjamin Schweiss, Genthe and Girardin (later each one ran a store of his own), George Hardesty, Joseph King, Charles Kreuger, Noah LeBlanc, Dora Lehman, Edward Longtin, Frank Loranger, Edmund Loselle, George A. Loselle, George Moore, Fred M. Mouchet, Michael Ososkie, Mrs. Daniel Roberts, and Charles Smith; *Meats*—in addition to the names of Bigler and Thon, Potter, John Brant, (George) Christian and (William) Lockert, Joseph Cramer (liquor also), McGloria Mannausau, Ned Torango and Rudolph Walters, and Hiram Charlton (fish); *Bakeries*—Charles F. Milspaugh, John Mohring, Mrs. George Pearce, William Stiling, John Weatherwax, and the Brohls; *Druggists*—Dorrance and Garrison, John MacKennie, besides Cahalan and Thomas; *Hardware*—G. W. Bloodgood and Company, and William Marx; *Lumber*—James T. Hurst and Son Planing Mill; *Real Estate*—Richard C. Miller and Alfred Steele; *Contractors and Carpenters*—Joseph W. Eaton, Peter Lacy and Henry Loeffler; *Brick Contractors*—Hugh Roberts, Harry Stoddard, Rudolph

Walther and Robert Miller, Michael Zeller; *Painters*—Evison and Raubolt, E. W. Potts and Son, Edward Watson; *Plumber*—John C. Ocobock; *Carpet Weavers*—John Jonas, John Sendelbach; *Coal and Ice*—J. J. Engfehr, Herman Schumacher; *Barbers*—Wiseman Brothers, John Ganley, Edward and Christopher Speck, Frank Mills, Everett Jones, Campbell Gee, and John Rieg; *Photography*—Mrs. Esther A. Bowles, Richard J. Lynch; *Harness Makers and Blacksmiths*—William Dodds, later Reno and Dodds, Edward Drouillard, Octave Loranger, Thomas Reaume; *Women's Services*—Mrs. Bell, Miss Kitty Brohl, Mrs. Elizabeth George, Miss Anna Hoersch, Mrs. Emma Marquardt, and Mrs. Torrance—*Dressmakers*; James Burgess—*Sewing Machines*; Mrs. Ella Fortenbaugh, The Eureka Steam, Wyandotte, American, and Niagara—*Laundries*; *Cigars, Confectionery, Fruits, etc.*—John P. Doll, Mrs. Zelma Genthe, Edward Hinds, Mary Langston, Emma Mehlhose, Archie Montroy, and Thomas Rutledge; *Saloon Keepers*—Charles Boehme, John A. George, Charles George, Kiley Brothers (Theodore and David), Michael Klatz, Charles LaBeau, Charles Labo, Charles Lebouf, Rudolph Lehmann, Mahlhouse and Schwartz, Henry Meyer, Fred C. Miller, William Miller, William Mueller, James H. Murray, Ernest H. Myer, Richard Sieloff, and Charles Smith. Many bars were operated in connection with the hotel boarding houses. A new *Tailor*, Anthony Kutny, and John Hills, a *Bill Poster*, also rendered services. John Smith and Frank George introduced a new *Undertaking and Furniture* business in the 1890-92 period, but neither continued for very long.

One of the special services offered in the period was the floral shop and greenhouse which was operated by J. S. Smith for over fifty years at the corner of Poplar and Second streets. Mr. Smith purchased the lot in August, 1891, and erected the greenhouse. Over the years, until his death in 1933, the business expanded into six greenhouses. Albert Swantush and William Cook continued to operate the shop after Mr. Smith's death, until they retired in 1940 and sold the business to Reno Piner.

This Wyandotte Floral Company, as it was known, "became an integral part of the Down River community fabric." This quiet, kindly proprietor's interest extended beyond the mercenary value of furnishing flowers, "dress-up" center pieces, corsages for the best girl, and floral tributes in last respect to departed ones to the appreciation and love of plants themselves. He initiated the first flower show in Wyandotte and continued the yearly practice of such an event for several decades.

In the 1890's the time had arrived for milk to be delivered in a more

convenient manner on the doorsteps of homes. A cow for every family had become an outmoded custom. The year was 1892 when the Johnson Creamery, well known to Wyandotters today, was established in the present location on Fifth Street between Chestnut and Oak. Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Johnson started first to deliver milk in 1886 to the ice-cream manufacturers in the city, operating from a farm on Sibley Road, two miles south of the city. The business proved to be so successful that the general dairy enterprise was considered advisable. Both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson co-operated in the business until Mr. Johnson's death in 1897. Mrs. Johnson chose to continue alone with the help of her son, Lyman Earl, as partner. A grandson, Lyman Manart, became the third generation to join the firm in 1947. In 1948 the company was incorporated. The name "Johnson's Creamery" reminds pioneers of the days when milk was delivered to the kitchen door and placed in household pitchers long before milk bottles were devised and pasteurization practiced. Cleanliness was the Johnsons' assurance that they regarded the health of the city's citizens with sincerity. All the milk was carefully strained and placed in purified receptacles before delivery. In 1912 the announcement was recorded in the local newspaper that "Johnson's Creamery, model of cleanliness, had put in a pasteurizer" in keeping with the enviable reputation for the quality of the output.

It was not until 1919 that another local enterprise of comparable size offered milk service to the community. In that year, Sylvester, Seymour, and Lloyd Affholter instituted the firm Affholter Brothers on Grove Street. From that day in October when these native sons decided to try their chances in Wyandotte, the story of the firm has been one of constant progress until today this plant is adjudged one of the best in the Down River area, and one of the "best in the country." In 1931 an ice-cream plant was added, and in 1936 a branch store in River Rouge, followed by a branch in Ecorse in 1939.

To Americans who have felt a sense of frustration by the centralization of production in the twentieth century, a new interpretation of "free enterprise" has been developed, termed the "Co-Operative Movement." Pioneers in this movement found that Wyandotte offered ideal conditions for such an experiment. In December of 1945 the only consumer-owned dairy in the Detroit area was established in Wyandotte. The success of this enterprise grants this city the distinction of furnishing a proving ground for the ultimate in democratic business processes. New milk routes have expanded from Wyandotte to include Detroit, Wayne, and Ferndale. In 1953 the latest in mechanical milk distribution,

the milk automat, was introduced by the Wyandotte Co-Operative Dairy to Down River residents. "At any hour of the day or night those needing milk can drive up, deposit forty cents in any combination of silver coin, and out trundles a carton of cold, fresh milk, all in less than a minute." There have been recorded in Wyandotte history earlier attempts at co-operative enterprises, but these did not endure. In 1902 about sixty families organized a "Wyandotte Branch of the Michigan Co-Operative Society" and purchased the grocery stock of Cyril Beau-bien near the Michigan Alkali Works No. 1. Each of the stockholders subscribed for \$15.00 worth of stock. E. W. Stieler, an experienced grocer, was engaged as manager. Later, in 1916, it was recorded that "laborers in the Down River are planning to open a co-operative store. Paul Puchek, who is directing the enterprise, proposes to sell stock in amounts of \$10.00 to \$100.00. The concern will handle groceries and meats."

The changes expected by the entrance of a new century³⁵ seemed to have had little effect on the traditionalism of the mercantile interests of the city. Glancing down the list in the directory of business names, one notices many in this contemporary period with a dated history.

Amiot Company Cleaners started its life as a tailor shop. In 1910 Hubert Amiot added a dry cleaner establishment in his tailoring shop at Sycamore and Biddle Avenue. In 1912 he erected a small plant at the back of the present Cunningham Drug Store. Business increased to such an extent that he erected another building near the site of the present Neisner store in 1914. The present large plant built directly in the rear of the older location on Maple Street was constructed in 1929. Neil Amiot, a son, took over the management in 1934 after the illness of his father. This ultra modern establishment is considered the oldest dry cleaning firm in this area.

Armstrong's Men's Clothing opened in 1920 at the corner of Biddle and Oak on the site of the old Arlington Hotel. Frank Armstrong, the manager, came to Wyandotte in 1899 after having worked in clothing stores in Detroit. In 1921 Fred McLaughlin became a partner. Fred's death in 1922 interrupted his successful career, and a brother, Eugene McLaughlin, joined the firm. In 1948 G. P. "Gap" Lanthier and Anthony J. "Tony" Glinka joined the firm as active partners. Both men had served in the store prior to assuming active management. The

³⁵Since the library contains files of city directories from 1899 to date and newspaper advertisements are fairly complete, a listing of business enterprises for those years has been omitted.

Ladies' Shop next to the Men's Clothing also has an Armstrong influence and background. Mrs. Armstrong opened her shop on the east side of Biddle Avenue ten years before her husband embarked on his business adventure in Wyandotte. In 1910 her stock consisted chiefly of hosiery and lingerie. Later, fancy work and art goods were added. Mrs. Dorner joined her sister in 1918 as a partner, and the name "Ladies' Shop" was chosen. In 1929 Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Dorner decided to move across the road to the location next to Armstrong's Men's Clothing. Fancy work and art goods were discontinued and ladies' apparel, jewelry and sundry accessories substituted. In 1949, upon the retirement of the two sisters, Mary Hostman, long an employee of the store, took over the store continuing with the same name.

Asmus Brothers Hardware Company was first organized as Jager-Asmus Hardware Company in 1919 on First Street. In 1923 increased business of the company compelled the owners to find larger quarters. Then the firm moved to Biddle Avenue in the present location. After the death of Mr. Jager in 1928, Otto and Emil H. Asmus assumed operation under the name, "Asmus Brothers Hardware Company, Inc." The China Shop was another expansion move. It was opened under the management of Marian Asmus at the corner of Oak and First Streets in 1936. In 1948 additional floor space was realized by including an annex with the building directly to the south of the store. July 1954 marked the sale of this historic store to Rasberry Appliance. The name will continue the same.

Caspers Furs, another modern store with a pioneer history, was established by Frank Caspers in 1900 on Maple Street. In 1902 Mr. Caspers moved to a Biddle Avenue location, and in 1907 erected the present store building between Chestnut and Oak Streets. The specialization of this shop has always been custom furs and repairs. Frank first worked for the J. H. Bishop Company, fur manufacturers, for a period of twenty years learning all that was possible about furs. He died in 1931, and his son, Francis T., became owner and operator of the business of today.

The George name in business continues into this centennial year under the feminine attraction of the Mary Margaret Shop. Mary George Trites and Margaret George Falls, daughters of Frank George, opened their gift shop on Biddle Avenue in 1920. With increasing business activity, it became necessary to seek larger quarters on Maple Street where it still carries a variety of gift-type merchandise and ladies' apparel.

Two furniture stores in Wyandotte today have histories of proprietors who have an intertwining relationship. The Lynch and Sullivan, and Ginzel Furniture companies began mercantile lives in the city as Lynch and Ginzel in 1905. Richard Lynch and Fred Ginzel opened the store in the present location on the east side of Biddle between Elm and Oak Streets. The partnership was dissolved in 1915, and Fred Ginzel left to develop his own store on the site of the former Ginzel grocery at the corner of Elm and Second. In that same year, John L. Sullivan, formerly with the Gartner Hardware Company, became associated with R. J. Lynch. John Sullivan in turn bought out the interest of R. J. Lynch in 1929. Richard Lynch died in 1929; John L. Sullivan in 1934. However, members of the Sullivan family have continued to the present day to use the name, "Lynch and Sullivan." In the progress story of the Fred Ginzel Furniture Company, Mr. Ginzel received Milton Davis as partner in 1922. At the time of Mr. Ginzel's death in 1925, Milton Davis and his nephew, Roy Stack, continued to conduct the business. After the retirement of Milton Davis, and upon the death of Roy Stack, other local interests purchased the stock and the business was continued under the management of Bernard J. Beattie with the same influential, historic name—Ginzel.

The modern name and architectural features of the Mahalak and Herman Shoe Store give little evidence that this store has a history which dates back 23 years in Wyandotte. Charles Kohler founded the store in 1921 on Biddle Avenue between Eureka and Orange Street. In 1923 he changed locations to a site occupied by the Blosson Cafe today, between Sycamore and Eureka Avenue. The present building occupied by the Mahalak and Herman Shoe Store was purchased from Julius Somheil in 1930. When Charles Kohler decided to retire in January 1939, he sold out to Bernard Mahalak and George Leathers, and the store continued under the name, "Economy Shoe Store." In 1949 George Leathers sold his interest to Walter Herman, and the present name of Mahalak and Herman has become familiar to Wyandotters.

At the age of 20 years and with a capital of \$85.00, A. B. Milkins opened his jewelry business in the Flatiron block between Eureka and Orange on Biddle Avenue in 1905. Expanding business necessitated his moving into the Marx Theater building, corner of Sycamore and Biddle in 1914. In 1918, needing still more room, he moved to the present location between Maple and Sycamore. His son, Burdette, joined his father in partnership in 1930.

The Ralph Nixon Funeral Home dates back in historic inheritance

to the announcement in the *Wyandotte Herald* newspaper of June 1889, which stated that Hugo Mehlhose would rebuild the old Methodist Church on Biddle Avenue and remodel it into a "handsome structure," and that the occupancy of the new building would be shared by C. Neuendorf and Son (C. E.), undertakers. With eager eyes, Ralph Nixon, a child of five, watched the arrival of a beautiful span of black horses in this new establishment. The Nixon home was directly in the rear of this new store on Oak Street. From that date Mother Nixon lost a son to first, the love of black horses, and eventually to a genuine devotion to the town's most necessary public service. The "job" and apprenticeship of following the horses and all the activities connected with them started in 1900 for Ralph Nixon. Mr. Neuendorf had established his business in the Baisley block on Eureka Avenue in 1898. Shortly after that date he moved the undertaking business to the northwest corner of Eureka and Third, and the furniture enterprise to the Biddle Avenue location of the old Methodist Church. C. E. Neuendorf, the son, conducted the furniture division until his death. In 1900 the advertisements in the local newspaper noted that Alderman Henry O. Maloch had joined C. Neuendorf and Son in a re-organization of the business. In 1916 the funeral parlor and furniture were moved to the corner of Elm and Biddle in the present Down River Savings Bank Building. By the year 1922 Ralph Nixon had received his embalmer's license. His introduction "to the handling of bodies" was dramatically and fearfully remembered as July 1909. The firm's name then became Neuendorf and Nixon. On October 8, 1923, Ralph Nixon purchased the Neuendorf interest and began an independent enterprise, Nixon, Undertaker and Furniture Dealer. By 1927 Ralph Nixon was ready for complete devotion to the undertaking service. He purchased the present location at the corner of Biddle and Vinewood, and held open house for over 200 Wyandotters who voiced the opinion, "That is just the type of institution that Wyandotte has needed for years." Wyandotters were pleased that "most of the commercialism had been removed" from this type of institution, and hoped that this venture would succeed. Just twenty-two years later in 1949, open house was held again for public approval of the French Provincial Chapel which bears witness of the faith and respect for this local Wyandotter's efforts to comfort his fellow citizens in their hours of sorrow.

May 1941 marked the date for the breaking of ground for the new office building of E. W. Smith Insurance Agency on Biddle Avenue near Ford Avenue. E. W. Smith began his climb to success in a home

office on Poplar Street in May 1917. In 1930 an office building was erected near this same address to accommodate the steady increase in business expansion. Today this agency is noted as one of the largest agencies in the Down River area.

One of the oldest insurance concerns in Wyandotte was established in 1909 by John E. Youd and Norman Coan, and was called the "Youd and Coan Insurance Agency." In 1911 John Youd bought out Norman Coan, and it became the J. E. Youd Agency. After Mr. Youd's death in 1929, Mrs. Youd continued the business alone until her son, John Youd, Jr., became a partner. At present John Youd, Jr., is sole owner of the business now located between Chestnut and Oak on Biddle Avenue.

The misty years have rolled away. It is now 1954. The business area surrounding Biddle Avenue has expanded into districts. The American developed chain store has come to find ample expression in Wyandotte. Big Bear, Edwin Jewelers, Federal's, Great Atlantic and Pacific, Lewis-Star, Moskins, Sear's United Shirts, Winkleman's, and many others operate with production-line efficiency. The Five and Ten Cent Store has replaced the "I Wish I Had a Penny Store." Business establishments have increased from thirty to nearly one thousand. There is no longer time for customers or proprietors to stop and chat as the hands of the clock move rapidly chaining man more securely to the slavery of the machine age. Red, blue, green, and yellow neon lights dazzle the eyes with lively and intriguing formations, and brighten the streets where a lamp lighter used to kindle a dull glow to guide the homeward bound pioneer. The hustle and bustle is so great that it is necessary during Friday night shopping time for policemen to direct the crowds eager to spend the weekly pay check in the attractively organized stores.

Yes, the twentieth century has indeed altered the historic landscape. Yet the newcomer ponders the answer to the frustrating sense of stability which pervades the town. "Unprogressive," "narrow-minded," "extreme conservatism" are the terms used to designate the reaction. Perhaps the answer may be found hidden among the flashing signs along the streets. There, remaining strong and secure, are many names—proprietors of businesses whose eyes, looking out upon the teeming thoroughfares, mirror reflections of the folklore and the expressions of sorrows, joys, happinesses, and services shared with neighbors, friends, and customers in the long ago years, and which experiences have been passed down from grandfather to father to son. With the "show must go on" spirit, the historic businesses have preserved traditions on the very doorstep of the newcomer. Whether the merchandising or manage-

ment remains the same or not, without these names Wyandotters would lose their sense of belonging: Thon—98 years; Brohl—89 years; Eberts—82 years; Cahalan—74 years; Kaul—74 years; Gartners—72 years; George (Frank and daughters Mary and Margaret)—68 years; Johnson Creamery—68 years; Melody—67 years; Mehlhose Ice Cream—66 years; Kreger (Grocery)—65 years; Ginzel—62 years; Speck, the Barber—59 years; Frank Mills, Barber—56 years; Caspers Furs—54 years; Everett Jones, Barber—50 years; Lynch—49 years and Sullivan—39 years; Milkins—49 years; Youd Insurance—45 years; Amiot—44 years; Labadie—41 years; Smith Insurance—37 years; Affholter—35 years; Asmus—35 years; Armstrong—34 years; and Nixon—32 years.

What a challenge to other cities to match in enterprises which have continued from two to three generations! Did not the Eureka Iron Company prophesy well?

Shopping and marketing in the pioneer days were pleasant social occasions. The merchants were friendly chaps with time to chat and encourage patronage by the personal touch of a warm handshake and a ready smile. Some stores were large enough to permit a discussion group to congregate. One such store was the Thomas Drug Store, which at one time "had the only subscription to a daily paper in the city and one of the largest and hottest stoves." "It became the headquarters for the men in the town who went there to hitch their feet up on the capacious stove and to hear the news read aloud by some member of the crowd." In Thomas' store the Civil War was fought and fought again every day and really interesting discussions ranged all the way from politics and horse racing to literature, music and art. Likewise, the Cahalan Drug Store was a general meeting place for the making and breaking of an aspiring politician. Many times the political fate of the city was determined around the stove in this historic store.

The busy housewife, the bubbling children, and the hardworking fathers were friends whose health and welfare were immeasurably tied to the merchants' well-being and success. The social welfare of the citizens was the merchants' serious concern. How many families in Wyandotte owe their survival today to the accommodation of "running tick"³⁰ cannot be counted. When work was slack at the mill, or a slack period in construction between boats occurred, the only means of securing food not raised in the gardens was "running tick," which meant "charging at the grocer's" during the slack season and when work was

³⁰Colloquial term.

again in operation, paying a little every payday until the indebtedness was canceled. The goal was sometimes achieved just in time to start "running tick" again.⁸⁷ The paternalism of this system extended even to the children. The tale of one timid child will recall similar experiences in the minds of others. Desperately wishing for ten cents, the trusting girl approached Hugo Mehlhose for the loan with the request that it be recorded on her parents' "running tick" account. A hearty laugh, a willing thrust of his hand into his pocket, and a kindly pat on the head sealed the bargain. And the number of stores which repeated Mr. Thomas' kindnesses have been recorded only in the hearts and minds of the recipients. "Many a man during the panic of '78 and other lean years went down to the drug store of a morning without breakfast and found food laid handy there without discussion or fuss." There were those, too, who followed another grocer's policy of caring for the aged and incapacitated by extending credit on groceries over a period of many years, secured only by a mortgage. No pressures were exerted on these friends whose assets could not be realized in ready cash. One story is told of the foresight of such a merchant by providing in his will a clause which stabilized the rent of a home in which an aged couple were living to \$10.00 per month as long as the couple should live and occupy the same.

Goods were displayed and serviced in home-style manner. Cracker and cookie barrels were left open for easy sampling. Huge rounds of cheese were left on the counters for tasting. Jellies were scooped out of wooden pails and placed in small containers. Butter was always packed in jars or crocks and never purchased without tasting. Sugar, tea, and coffee were stored in barrels and scooped into bags at the time of purchase. Trading in a grocery store very often meant literally that—eggs, butter, and other forms of farm produce were "swapped" for groceries. The grocer would repack the traded goods and would ship them to another city if his business didn't warrant the merchandise.

⁸⁷The following folklore story recorded in the *Wyandotte Herald*, July 4, 1902, speaks for the prevalence of such a practice.

"Rev. W. J. Balmer was reviewing the lesson at the session of the Methodist Sunday school last Sunday. He had painted a glowing picture of heavenly blessings and ended with the query:

" 'Now children, what debt is there that we owe, and owe, and owe, and can't get paid up?'

" 'Groceries!' shouted a boy on the back seat, and the school smiled audibly.

" 'I don't know as you are very far wrong,' replied the pastor quietly, and then he branched off on another phase of the lesson."

In lieu of window space a great deal of the merchandise was displayed outside on the board walks. What a temptation this sidewalk clutter must have been for the unscrupulous or practical joker! It is not known even to this day which motivation removed the full dress suit from the dummy in front of Kaul's department store where its nakedness elicited consternation on the faces of the ladies and a sly wink from the men. One night about ten gallons of gin were stolen from a barrel containing that liquor and which was left outside of the store of Louis George. Mr. George explained his reaction thus: "I think it must have been a Democrat that took it as the thief was gentleman enough to leave part of it. A Republican would have taken the whole. That is their game now, whole or none."

The Melody Brothers reported to the newspapers at one time that "Saturday P. M. between three and four o'clock, someone lifted a \$28.00 case of hats from in front of their store." The comment was added that, "only a week before a case of shoes was stolen from the same place. A dummy heavily weighted with iron which was set in the dirt in front of the store has not been touched yet."

John Bittorf's outside displays received proper attention. During holiday and festive occasions, a side of beef would swing in the breeze decorated by his daughters with red, white, and blue rosettes with long ribbons, which were fastened over the beef with pin attachments. A flagpole seemed to be an added necessity to John's shop. The flagpole became so much a trademark of the Bittorf Meat Shop that upon his retirement "Joe" Kirby presented a flagpole to the family for placement on the roof of the homestead out Eureka Road. John's experience with the practical joker ran as a continued story in the *Wyandotte Herald* newspapers for November 26 and December 3, 1880, under the title:

TURKEY TALE

Joseph Gartner and R. W. Leighton spied a 15 pound turkey hanging in front of their neighbor's shop—John Bittorf's, and thought it would be a good joke to take the turkey and hide it for a while until Bittorf would give up the hunt, and then return his turkey to him. In the meantime a certain city official, who will be nameless, saw the above parties hide the bird, and after their departure confiscated it. John Bittorf missed his turkey, and knowing what practical jokers Gardner and Leighton were, accused them of having taken it. They owned the "corn" and went to get the turkey from where it had been hidden, but again it had disappeared and they had to foot the bill. They don't think the joke near so funny as they did.

Those Third Ward jokers are bound to get even with one another. We made mention last week of a turkey that had been stolen from friend Bittorf. The

turkey was returned to him and he put it up for a raffle, R. W. Leighton being the winner. Leighton took it home and had it cooked, anticipating a square meal. Bittorf, to get even with Bob for a former joke, stole the turkey from the oven, and now the laugh is on "Bob."

Similar stories of comradeship, good-will, and co-operation between merchant and townsmen and among shopkeepers themselves could be repeated many times. Dolly Haven's epitaph at the closing of Frank Loselle's Cigar Store in 1923, is the prototype of each merchant who began and ended his career in Wyandotte during the formative years of the city:

"Frank Loselle's Cigar Store is no more. . . . The change will be noted sadly by the old habitués. For it was a familiar hangout for the sporting fraternity. . . . One could of an evening hear any kind of sport being discussed—baseball, football, bowling, etc. It was a place of real democracy among men. . . . It was a place where men in all walks of life—the banker, the mechanic, the laborer, the merchant—would step in for a friendly visit and discuss topics of the day."

For many of us the reminiscences along the streets whose activities have long since passed, stimulate wishful lamentations for the "good old days." We should like to enjoy once again the social welfare of "running tick," the informality in trading and purchasing goods, and the personal interest of the proprietor himself. But wait! Let us pause a moment and consider. Has the technological character of modern times blurred our vision? Our economic welfare is still insured. Credit is extended in a variety of methods—personal credit charge accounts, installment buying, and long term contracts. Goods are still displayed in an easy and self-serve method. We reach our hands into cases of packaged meat, frozen foods, and onto open shelves of canned and packaged goods without the danger to public health as in the days when cracker barrels and butter pails were unprotected against the environment. Dry and hard goods shelves and cases are open and inviting for customers to handle and test at will. No stock is hidden behind forbidding counters. One may read a magazine or view a television program in any store without obligation or purchase. The aisles of stores are as crowded with merchandise as were the sidewalks in the olden days. Merchants still thrust their hands down into their pockets and provide gifts for the children of the city on festive holidays such as, "Trick and Treat" day in October, "Firecracker Day" in July, and "Santa Claus" time in December. There is one merchant in particular, John Bussatti, at the corner of Fifth and Pine Streets, who ropes off Fifth Street with Council permission every year in order to stage a free-

for-all entertainment program on Halloween. Beautiful, sparkling Christmas lights along the streets cause blue eyes, brown eyes, and hazel eyes peeping out from bonnets and caps to dance and laugh because of the gifts from merchants. Old folks, young people, and children have fun and happiness on the water and at the picnic grounds at Bob-Lo Island assured by awards and prizes on "Wyandotte Day" sponsored yearly by the merchants. Graduates from the local high schools enter the commencement life as adults encouraged by the merchants who express their good will and extend that reassuring "pat on the back" through gifts and scholarships. The Wyandotte Merchants' Association engenders for the merchants the same spirit of comradeship and unity of purpose in spite of competitive selling that they enjoyed in the "good old days."

We have no cause for regrets. The democratic process of free enterprise has demonstrated its ability in Wyandotte to function for the mutual benefit of each one in the strength of its survival from one generation to the next and from one century into the future.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The progress and success of any village, city, or country depends upon the health of its economic environment. From the beginning of time man has found it necessary to barter and trade, since the advantages of worldly goods or raw materials are not possessed by one person, city, or nation. Transportation and communication perfect this exchange. Although transportation is very often thought of as means of settlement, it may also be a precise result of the demands of settlements. Without facilities for the exchange of material goods in Wyandotte, industrialism would have lost its significance, the merchants the means of providing for commercial wants of the citizens; the citizens would have forfeited the opportunity of mutual association with their fellowmen. Our city would have dissipated into a pasture land. Even the Eureka Iron Company's need for convenient water transportation was one of the reasons for the selection of Wyandotte as a factory site. Water, however, could not provide every contact with the outside world. Land and air also contributed a natural environment for the future development of the vital means of transportation and communication.

Water

For many years the only sound upon the surging waters skirting the east boundary line of the city since the days of the glacial

period had been the splashing of the waves against the Indians' birch bark canoes as they plied their way from Wyandotte to Gibraltar and on to Amherstburg. Pioneer George Clark had commented on his arrival in this area in 1818 that he had noticed on his journey here only six or eight boats other than the remains of the Perry fleet. However, the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 changed the picture and encouraged the influx of settlers from the East. Whereupon the quiet flow of the Detroit River evolved into one of the busiest and most exciting traffic lanes of the world.

By 1854 several boats, in fleets or owned singly, were in operation on the river. It was the custom in those days for seafaring captains with a single boat to contract for the carrying of freight. Sometimes fleets were organized and operated by companies in order to facilitate their private enterprises.

One particular morning in 1854 the continuous symphony of turbulent waters and the sight of white sails silhouetted against the azure sky spelled out the future of a city. Two men, Darius Webb and Lewis Scofield, scanned the horizon up the river and awaited the schooner's docking. One might have noticed that a few curious Indians paddled in canoes along the river's shoreline, foraging and watching the white men to see what their purpose might be on the site of their former village of Maquaqua.

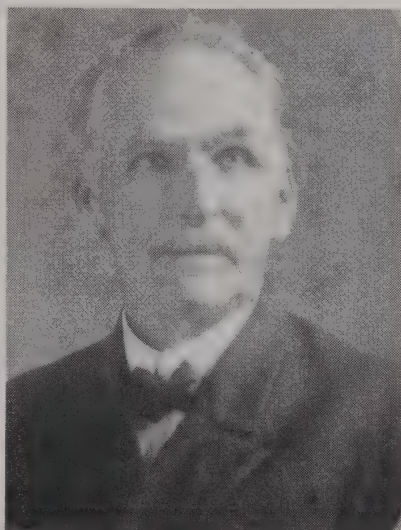
The boat approached the land slowly, moving cautiously into the natural bay located near the present site of the American Legion Clubhouse. At the helm was Captain William Bolton. Captain Bolton, builder and owner of his own boat, had contracted with Eber Ward to carry some of the building supplies for the erection of the Eureka Iron factory. Darius Webb and Lewis Scofield were assigned to superintend the construction upon which hinged the foundation of the village of Wyandotte. The Captain made several trips back and forth to Detroit, bringing in the supplies. This episode impressed the great significance of the Detroit River upon the life of the future city for the first time.

The possibilities of the new village to which he was contributing likewise attracted Captain Bolton so that he decided to build a home and establish his family as citizens of Wyandotte. He purchased a lot from the Eureka Iron Company on the present Van Alstyne Boulevard river front close to the bay where he was accustomed to dock. There he erected his house in 1855. The Bolton home today, occupied by his daughter, May, and granddaughter, Leila Meston, broods darkly under the ageless lilac bushes, resenting the threatening encroachments of expanding Bishop Park. In 1955 this home will be one of the few re-

maining in the city which will have witnessed one hundred years of history on the land and on the sea.

From the day of Captain Bolton's arrival in Wyandotte, the strait, sending its water splashing against the shoreline, has meant as much to Wyandotte as its land. It has added cheer, fun, and color to the people's lives, in excursions, in sports of boating, skating, and fishing, and picnics along the water front park. Its cool breezes have tempered the summer heat and quieted restless spirits. It has been an important factor in the great industrial picture, helping the boats bring in the raw materials and industrial supplies to the consuming factories and has received into its bosom many ships born in Wyandotte. It provided passenger transportation in the days before the street car, automobile, and bus.

The first boats mentioned as available for passenger and freight transportation on the Detroit River route were the Jay Cooke, The Riverside, The Gazelle, The Pearl, The Massasauga, The Evening Star, and the Grace MacMillan. Early in 1881 the name of the Grace MacMillan was changed to Idlewild. Later in the period between 1890 and 1910 the names Newsboy, Wyandotte, Douglas and Fremont became familiar



Captain William Bolton

sights at the river ports. The Gazelle, Riverside, Jay Cooke, Pearl and Wyandotte boats were built and managed by the J. B. Clark estate. John was a son of one of the first white families in the Wyandotte territory. All these boats followed much the same route from Amherstburg to Detroit. Some of the boats were regulars in the west channel ports, stopping at Amherstburg, Sugar Island, Hickory Island, Grosse Ile, Wyandotte (Oak Street dock), Ecorse, and Detroit (foot of First Street); while the others followed the Canadian channel and ports along the east side of the river. On all the boats, package freight was as important a service as accommodations for passengers. One of the anticipated services was the yearly arrival of peaches from Put-In-Bay. Wyandotte housewives used to gather at the Oak Street dock eagerly waiting to be the first to make a selection. On one occasion

it was reported that "the Put-In-Bay boats have so much traffic in peaches and other fruit among the islands that they can not get to Detroit on schedule time. Large quantities of fruit are taken on board at all islands along the route."

The height of boat transportation occurred in the pioneer period between 1880-1900. In 1881 with three boats, the "Riverside," "Gazelle," and "Idlewild," making regular runs, it was noticed that the "Oak Street dock presented a lively appearance night and day with the boats carrying a large number of passengers and handling considerable quantities of freight."



Steamer "Wyandotte" at the Oak Street Dock. Frank Marx in foreground.

Before the close of the season in 1881, the steamer "Idlewild" was sold by the Detroit Steam Navigation Company to the Star Line route from Detroit to Port Huron. The "Gazelle" followed the route from Gibraltar to Detroit. The "Riverside" at this early date carried passengers from Amherstburg to Wyandotte where it transferred the passengers to the "Gazelle" and then proceeded to Detroit with freight only. The "Riverside" was also one of the boats which accommodated passengers that wished to stop at the River Park Hotel. The "Massasauga" was another one of the boats which was able to include the River Park Hotel as a regular stop because its small size kept it from drawing too much water. She stopped regularly in Wyandotte at the Eureka Company's dock at the foot of Elm Street for passengers and freight. A

mysterious fire burned this boat to the river's edge at Gibraltar in August, 1890. The "Newsboy" replaced the "Massaşauga" on the river route. The "Pearl" and "Evening Star" were the boats which carried the port cities and island passengers to Cleveland.

During the 1890's a ride on the "Riverside" or the "Wyandotte" meant more to Wyandotters than any other chain of river boats. The length of years the "Riverside" plied the water—1873-1899—contributed to the affection in which it was held. More stories are told about the "Riverside" than any other. One pioneer chuckles over the time that she eavesdropped on her mother's plans for a trip to Detroit on the boat. Her eyes never closed all night as she awaited her mother's rising. Listening intently until the door closed, she jumped out of bed, dressed and ran breathlessly to the Oak Street dock and up the gang plank just as it was being raised. She confronted her mother dressed in wrinkled play clothes, unwashed face, and uncombed hair for her first trip and boat ride on the "Riverside" to the frightening city³⁸ of Detroit. That event took place 75 years ago but it was the greatest day in the life of an 87-year-old Wyandotte lady. The passengers also enjoyed music on the "Riverside," as they do on the modern boats, after the Edison drop-a-nickel-in-the-slot phonograph was placed on the steamer in 1892. There also occurred the exciting lawsuit over the lady who bashed Howard Pray, the purser, over the head with an umbrella because of a dispute over a transfer from another boat. This lawsuit was important in settling the question of boat transfer fares. The association with Captain John DeSana,³⁹ likewise, gave significance to this boat, as well as to all the city's passenger-freight service on the Detroit River. The Captain rates the position of being the Alpha and Omega of Wyandotte's Detroit River transportation.

John DeSana was born in Amherstburg in 1840, and settled in Wyandotte during the 1860's. In 1865 he was an active participant in the "Foot and Walker" method of the village's transportation system. In that year he walked the entire distance to Detroit for his marriage. He returned to Wyandotte with his bride and took up residence in the third block on Vinewood Street, where the home still remains today.

³⁸Native Wyandotters always speak of Detroit as "the city." They always "go to 'the city,'" never "to Detroit."

³⁹Pioneer Wyandotters were given to colloquialisms so John's name was spelled DeSany and pronounced DeShany. Correctly the name should be spelled DeSana and pronounced De-Say-Na.



Steamer "Douglas" and Captain DeSana

After the "Riverside" was launched in 1873 he accepted its captainship for which he had prepared by shipping out to sea as a cook at the age of 12. With this appointment he became one of the "firsts" in boat passenger service to Wyandotte. In 1892 he transferred to the newly launched "Wyandotte." After the "Wyandotte" discontinued service he purchased a small steamer named the "Douglas" which he used in the extension of freight and passenger service until 1908. Between 1908-1910 he added the "Fremont" for freight only and in 1910 purchased the "Vanietta"⁴⁰ and the tug "McCormick," which he was never able to launch into service since death intervened in his plans in June, 1910. A son, John, Jr., had joined his father as engineer on the boats, but upon his father's death he lost the incentive to carry on alone. The DeSana boats were sold immediately and John, Jr., joined the Ashley-Dustin "Put-In-Bay" boat as wheelman, continuing in water transportation for many years thereafter.

Captain DeSana was typical of the stern, arbitrary old sea captains. To

⁴⁰The "Vanietta" later suffered an accident in Burrell slip, where its engine rests today.

some Wyandotters he is remembered mostly by name and security in navigation, since they recall "he attended strictly to business and did not mingle with the crowd." The long time boat purser of the "Riverside," Howard Pray, became better known. The children of yesteryears have a different story to tell. They remember that Captain DeSana loved children and that by watching the clock for the hour of the boat's arrival they could receive a free ride when he docked at the Bishop Company with freight. He would load all the waiting children on the boat and ride them one block south to the Oak Street dock—a tremendous thrill! An Italian fruit vendor in Wyandotte could relate an episode which would reveal further the Captain's humanitarianism. Friend John furnished the capital and carried the fruit express free from Detroit in order that this family might find happiness and success in Wyandotte. He was a man earnestly concerned with the skillful and safe navigation of the waters with a reputation respected throughout the marine service. Whenever a large freighter wished to dock in Wyandotte, the message was always relayed to Captain DeSana who went out to the channel and piloted the boat in to the Wyandotte dock.

In Amherstburg, his birthplace, there was evidence of mixed emotions relating to perennial Captain DeSana. While a few resented his exactness, others deeply appreciated the sterling qualities of a disciplined character. The former group expressed displeasure because whenever he stated that the boat left with the blowing of the whistle, it left, precisely as he indicated, no matter how many there were or how desperate the need was for those running to catch the boat. On the other hand, many Amherstburg friends turned out in appreciation on the special occasion of his twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. The captain was met at the 5:00 p.m. docking and escorted to the Lakeview House where he was feted and presented with a small 18" miniature vessel "mounted on an artistic arrangement of glass, moss and shells so placed to represent a body of water." The vessel was loaded with a cargo of twenty-five silver dollars, a gift of his many friends. The vessel was a gift of the Sisters in the Amherstburg convent. "To say he was surprised was 'to put it mildly'" and the Captain who could always "find words when in command of his boat was rather at loss for utterances on this occasion."

Passengers on the "Wyandotte" of which he later was Captain often experienced his devotion to duty. A limit of one thousand passengers was placed on the boat's capacity, and Captain DeSana would never carry a single person above the limit. During a Sunday excursion to Sugar Island, Dr. Reid was forced to forfeit the trip because his ticket completed the

one thousand purchase which eliminated his friend. Out in the channel near Hickory Island were dangerous currents to navigate. The safety of the boat and passengers meant more to Captain DeSana than the displeasure of many. Whether the pioneers considered the Captain friend or foe, transportation on the water was safe and certain under the trustworthy guidance of Captain John DeSana and his son, John, Jr.

The "Wyandotte" was the first boat to be named in honor of the city. It was built and launched in Wyandotte in 1892 and thereby enlisted distinction in the minds of the citizens. It was great fun to ride to Detroit and return for the inexpensive sum of $8\frac{1}{2}$ cents when tickets were purchased in lots. At no time was the rate higher than 50 cents round trip. The boat left at 7:45 a.m. and returned from Detroit at 4:00 p.m.

With the beginning of the 20th century newer methods of land transportation—namely, street railways—overshadowed the economic value of the limited package-freight and passenger vessels which were handicapped by seasonal considerations. In May, 1904, the management of the steamer "Wyandotte" found it advantageous to abandon the route and the boat was sold to the Crystal Beach Steamboat Company of New York for an excursion boat between Buffalo and Crystal Beach. In 1899 the "Riverside" was sold and it was believed to have continued as an excursion boat out of Cleveland.

The sale of the "Wyandotte" marked the end of extensive passenger service on large vessels operating on regular schedule. However, Captain DeSana's "Douglas," a much smaller boat, continued to provide rides between the years 1904-1908 from Trenton to Detroit whenever passengers so desired. His chief business concerned freight; passenger accommodations were incidental. The death of Captain DeSana in 1910 closed an era—an era which wrote an exciting chapter in the life and development of early Wyandotte, an era which now belongs to "time and the river."

Since the closing date of all passenger service in 1908, Wyandotters have had to be content with recreational jaunts on the Bob-Lo steamers, Ste. Claire and Columbia, and the excursion steamers Frank E. Kirby and the lately lamented Put-In-Bay, or rent a boat from Rohmer's Boat Livery located at the foot of Orange Street. In the early 1900's William Ocobock, the championship oarsman, operated the boat livery at the foot of Orange Street. In 1907 he left for the west and Paul Rohmer took over the service. Many families rented the boats for excursions across the river, to the islands, to Detroit and for the pleasure of fishing. The service was discontinued in 1917-1918 when the liquor racket dominated the river.

Even today lowering clouds hang heavy over the future of all passenger boat transportation on the lakes as each boat in its own time stops its engines in the wake of changing economies.

The industrial factor in the water transportation story has endured without abatement. Fleets of boats have played the most important part in this respect. In the days of the Eureka Iron Company, Eber Ward's fleet of twelve steamers, one tug and three barges hauled the heavy iron ore and pigs of copper. These accommodations were in addition to the fleet of fourteen steamships which his uncle Sam Ward owned and operated. The labor was so heavy on these boats that Negro deck hands were employed to do the burdensome trucking. The names of the steamers which laid their gang planks on the banks of the river near the Eureka Iron Works bore the appropriate names Iron Age, Iron Chief, Iron Duke, and Iron Cliff. These were sold in 1899.

With the birth of the chemical industry the same pattern of water accommodations followed with the introduction of the Wyandotte Transportation Company by Captain John B. Ford's enterprise, the Michigan Alkali and J. B. Ford division, known today as the Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation.

The Michigan Alkali fleet of boats was incorporated in 1908, to facilitate the bringing of coal and limestone to the company from their holdings in Alpena, Michigan, and Ford Collieries at Curtisville, Pennsylvania. Nowadays the fleet carries coal, limestone, soda products and cement to many harbors around the Great Lakes and into Canada by the Welland Canal.

One of the significant features of the fleet has been the self-unloader, the first on the Great Lakes. Earlier in the shipbuilding history of Wyandotte, "Joe" Kirby created considerable marine engineering attention by inventing such a device but it was never developed or patented. In 1908, George Palmer, an employee of the Michigan Alkali Company, undertook the designing of an automatic unloading system to supplement the lack of dock unloading facilities at the local plant. The first conveyor was installed on the first boat of the Alkali fleet, The Wyandotte which was built and launched at Ecorse in 1908. The Alpena built at the Wyandotte yards with a conveyor in 1909, The Huron in 1914 and the Conneaut in 1916, both built at Ecorse and equipped with conveyors, completed the fleet. The boats' carrying capacities speak for their value to the company: The Wyandotte, 4,300 tons of stone or 2,800 tons of coal; The Alpena, 5,200 tons of stone or 3,500 tons of coal; The Huron and Conneaut (named for one of the frequent ports of call, Conneaut, Ohio) each 8,000 tons of stone, or 6,000 tons of coal.

In addition to the fleet, the Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation benefits from the services of two motor ships, the Michigan and Blue Line, which haul caustic soda liquid to eastern storage points. Whenever the need is great enough the company charters outside vessels to increase the advantage of cheaper freight. In 1954 the Wyandotte Transportation Company purchased three boats: the General Orlando M. Poe, the Samuel F. B. Morse, and the Odanah. These three boats are to be converted into barges which will transport chemicals from the company to south Chicago and thence to river barges for a trip down the Mississippi.

Besides the Wyandotte Chemical Corporation's use of the waterways, a few boats may be seen during the navigation season at the Municipal Light plant and at the Pennsylvania Salt Company unloading coal. Eberts Brothers and Labadie Coal companies have been receiving sand and coal by boat.

On the water, as on the land, safety measures have had to be taken to insure the success and welfare of those traveling the waters. In the pioneer days, protection was afforded by the lighthouses which dotted the river and guided the boats down the narrow strait. Two of the lighthouses were located near Wyandotte, the Grassy Island and Mama Juda.

The Grassy Island lighthouse was first constructed in 1849, rebuilt in 1857 and refitted in 1867. The tower was 29 feet high and placed on top of a frame building which was built on piles and whitewashed. The Mama Juda house was similar to the Grassy Island with a tower 34 feet high. It was built in 1849 and rebuilt in 1866. Mama Juda burned a steady red light, Grassy Island a white light—a light which flashed also a warm welcome to the friends from Wyandotte who would journey across the ice or in boats to visit the John Bryan family. Kindly, generous, hardworking Mr. Bryan, in his blue government uniform, and Mrs. Bryan would cheerily greet the children from Wyandotte who came to play with Edward, William, Jessie, and James Bryan.

In the summer it was cool and pleasant on the island, but in the winter, because of weather conditions and floating ice, it was necessary for Mr. Bryan to keep "bachelor's hall" while Mrs. Bryan and the children returned to Wyandotte in order that they might attend school. Mr. Bryan took his winter isolation philosophically and found company with his dog, pipe, and his own books and the library of thirty-six volumes furnished by the government. Not a word from this library was wasted, since Mrs. Bryan also read aloud from these books to the children. Little wonder it is to pioneers of Wyandotte that Edward Bryan has

long been considered the best informed and intelligent citizen of yesterday.

The other lighthouse, Mama Juda, named for an Indian squaw who used to fish there, added a touch of heroism to Wyandotte's history. It occurred during the time Orlo Mason was in charge of the light. Mabel, the fourteen-year-old daughter, who attended school in Wyandotte, was alone at the light when a passing barge blew a sharp whistle asking help for nine men in the water near Fighting Island. Mabel set out



Mama Juda Lighthouse, Detroit River

alone to the rescue, bringing the men to the lighthouse for food and warm clothing. In recognition of this supreme effort, which was undertaken when the girl was under medical treatment for a nervous and muscular disorder, the U. S. Congress awarded her a Congressional Medal during ceremonies at the Cadillac Hotel in Detroit. The medal consisted of a black ribbon from which was suspended an ornamented eagle's head, carrying in its bill a pendant of solid silver. On the reverse side was the inscription "To Mabel Mason for bravely rescuing a man from drowning May 11, 1890."

For many years until the close of the Eureka Iron and Steel Company

the flare of the blast furnace was used as a guiding light in navigation. When this feature was no longer in existence, it became necessary for the government to install range lights.

River accidents were frequent. Over the years, both lighthouse keepers recorded on their books similar heart warming experiences. Many a man has given grateful thanks to the guiding lights and the hot food and warm clothing issued from the hands of those faithful guardians of the dark waterways. The apparatus of the lighthouses consisted of life boats, ropes, rockets to use as signals, and mortars for throwing lines to endangered vessels. In 1916-1917, during World War I, a system of channel buoys was installed to warn the numerous boats, and the U. S. Coast Guards assumed the duties of the lighthouse keepers.

Now, after 130 years, the time has come for history to repeat itself. Once again the peoples of the Detroit area turn their eyes toward the East awaiting the surprises and blessings which will flood in with the on-rushing waters of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The Erie Canal and the date 1825 revolutionized the Midwest. Nineteen-fifty-five and the St. Lawrence Seaway will emphasize the power and influence of waterways in determining the growth and development of the land.

When the foreign boats begin to arrive at the city docks of the future, Wyandotters will recall that the first time in all history that an ocean going vessel docked at Wyandotte was in July, 1925. The steamer was the "Anders." It called here to take on 150 tons of freight consigned by the J. B. Ford Company and Michigan Alkali Company to points in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. The arrangements for shipping of the load had been planned over a period of five months. Once again, in the summer of 1934, a small sloop from Poland called the "Dal" moored at the American Legion dock while the crew visited with compatriots. Earlier, in the pioneer period, a stand of heavy timber beyond Fort Street was cut and hauled to the bay near the foot of Chestnut Street for shipment to England. There the logs were loaded upon boats especially designed for lumber transportation. Logs would be placed in the hull of the boat to a certain point, then doors would be closed. As each layer was completed and the doors closed, the ship settled a little lower into the water until the hull was filled to capacity.

The scenes have changed from year to year on the river. Huge freighters plow the channels in stately dignity, replacing the smaller type craft and schooner vessels of yesteryear. Yet, the water remains unchanged, fulfilling its destined purpose from one century to the next, the symbol of continuity for each historic period.

Land Transportation

Wyandotte's parent, the Eureka Iron Company, had something to contribute to the story of land transportation in the same pamphlet published in 1856 which has described other phases of the village life. The reference calls attention to the first railroad train, spitting smoke and cinders, which passed in 1855 through the west limits of the village and which served Detroit, Wyandotte, and Monroe. It was named the Detroit, Monroe, Toledo Railroad. In the pamphlet newcomers were assured:

"The Detroit and Toledo Railroad, which will be completed on the first of January, passes through the center of the village, where a depot will be located, and a side track constructed running directly to the Company's works on the bank of the river. This is the only link wanting to connect the great chain of railroads from the Atlantic, via Detroit and Chicago, to the Mississippi and Missouri River. The gauge of this road is the same as all those terminating at, or starting from Toledo, Detroit and Chicago so that cars manufactured at Wyandotte can be sent to any part of the western country without changing the gauge; and as the kind of material used in their construction can be obtained at this point much cheaper than in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri there is no good reason why Wyandotte should not supply the great west with railroad cars.

"When this road is completed, Wyandotte, in addition to her direct water communication with Buffalo, Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit, Chicago, and Lake Superior, during the season of navigation, will have an uninterrupted railroad communication, at all seasons of the year, with every important point in the United States."

In 1890 this line became known as the Toledo branch of the Lake Shore Michigan Southern Road. Later this line consolidated with the New York Central.

For ten years, from 1855-1865, a box car was used as a depot until the erection of a wooden structure. This shoddy building incensed the people of Wyandotte who argued long and loudly with the railroad companies until "at last, thank heavens," a new union depot for joint use of the Lake Shore and Michigan Central was secured in 1891. The depot which is still in use today, was considered "diminutive but handsome" and a few sarcastic citizens hoped the company would send along a full size depot at once.

This new union depot opened under the management of C. L. Carl, former ticket agent for the Lake Shore Road. C. R. Alvord relieved Mr. Carl in the evening as night operator. Station agent F. E. Welch of the Michigan Central and station agent R. V. Goodremont of the Lake Shore

remained in the old wooden depot building to transact the entire freight business. The Michigan Central Freight depot was raised several feet and continued to be used for freight in connection with the passenger depot. The old Lake Shore depot was pulled across the tracks to the west side and converted into a freight house.

The city's second railroad was known at its founding in 1873 as the Toledo Canadian and Southern. It was taken over in 1890 by the Michigan Central, which had come to Wyandotte from Canada about 1877. At that time the train ferried across from Amherstburg, Canada, to Stony Island, then crossed the railroad bridge from Grosse Ile to Trenton, following the route known today as the "free bridge" to the island, located southeast of Trenton. The train joined the main tracks at Trenton running into Wyandotte and Detroit.

The third line was added in 1898 and was called the Detroit and Lima Northern. At first it ran one freight and one passenger train each way every day. This road was consolidated in 1902 with the Ohio Southern and renamed The Detroit Southern. About 1908 it was reorganized into the Detroit, Toledo and Ironton Railroad. For eight years from 1921-1929 the Ford Motor Company operated this line. The present owners, the Penn Corporation, took over the management in 1929. It operates through Wyandotte today strictly for freight. A new brick and cement station at 724 Oak was opened February, 1952, in order to "keep up with expansion in the area."

The fourth railroad line, The Toledo Shoreline, entered Wyandotte in 1902 and continues today to carry freight through the city.

Today four lines continue to pass through the city: The Michigan Central; The New York Central; Detroit, Toledo, and Ironton; and The Detroit, Toledo Shoreline.

Between 1880-1884 provisions were made also for immediate railroad contact directly to the doors of the factories within the city. During the 1890's three spur tracks were completed ready to run from the Michigan Central line into the yards of the important industries. One spur line curved off the main tracks around the west and south side of the "forty acres" between Oak and Eureka and then came down Eureka proceeding north on Biddle Avenue to the Eureka Iron Works. Another spur line came down Grove Street to Biddle Avenue, branching north as far as Orange Street, servicing the Doyle Hoop and Stave Works and the shipyard. A third spur line ran north to Mulberry and then cut east across Biddle Avenue to the D. H. Burrell Company's plant located on the present site of the Wyandotte General Hospital. After the close of

the Eureka Iron and Steel Company in the early 1890's, the spur line down Eureka branching north on Biddle was removed in 1896. The south branch from Orange Street to Grove Street was removed late in 1941, at the suggestion of the Wayne County Road Commissioners, who were planning on improving and widening Biddle Avenue. At that time a new franchise was issued to accommodate the DuPont Company. Because of pressure from the citizens in the area, the new line was limited in extension to Orchard Street. The south and north switch lines have continued over the years to transport goods directly to the factories within the city. One line continues down Mulberry, and the other down Grove Street. Two inter-city railroad lines have been operating on these tracks since the beginning of the twentieth century—The Wyandotte Terminal Railroad incorporated by the Wyandotte Chemicals Company in 1904, and the Wyandotte Southern Railroad instituted by the Pennsylvania Salt Company in 1901.

Trains failed in one way to adequately supply the daily needs of the citizens. They were few and far between and it took a long time to transport freight here from outside places. The pioneer businessman coupled with the hardy spirit of the people battled a way out of the local isolation in spite of the many discouraging difficulties encountered on the early dirt and mud roads, with the solution of an overland stage line to Detroit in 1879. Herman Buck the driver described this stage thus:

"The stage was the idea of a Mr. Laribee who lived on Van Alstyne boulevard, across from the brewery. He bought two wagons on the order of the ones the gypsies used to drive. They were lumber wagons with a half spring underneath and the top was covered with oil cloth.

"One was run regularly and the second one made the trip when we had too much business for one to handle. I drove the one that went regularly. I left here every morning about seven o'clock and it was usually eight o'clock at night before I got back. You see, we hauled freight to and from Detroit, brought out merchandise to keep the merchants supplied and besides that we did errands for people.

"In those days it was so hard to get to Detroit and back that many people sent with me for things they needed rather than to make the trip themselves. They would take their orders up to Laribee's house or my house, and I would do their errands and deliver the goods when I returned at night. We hauled a great deal of the oil for the rolling mill. We got 75 cents for each barrel that we hauled. If a woman sent in for a hat we would charge her 25 cents for bringing it out and if we had to go to any extra bother getting things, of course we charged extra for it. There was money in it, all right, for Laribee, but there wasn't much in it for a driver. When I started there I worked for

\$4.00 a month. After six months he raised it to \$8.00, then to \$12.00 and finally when I quit, I was getting \$20.00 a month.

"Sometimes we hauled passengers, too. Most of the passengers were from Ecorse but occasionally, if I had room after I got the freight loaded in, I took passengers from Wyandotte.

"The job wasn't so bad in the summer time or in the winter for then the roads were frozen and it wasn't hard to get over them but in the spring and fall it was terrible. Up by Emmons grove it was the worst kind of a mud hole. It was bad any time of the year but in the spring it was almost impossible to get through. When the roads were like that Larabee sent both stages so if one got stuck, the other one could help pull him out. And sometimes we had to get the farmers along the way to give us a lift, but we didn't depend much on them for there were only nine houses between Ecorse and Ft. Wayne."

When this first enterprise proved successful others tried the same thing. Hiram Milspaugh opened a line during the 1880's known as a "package freight service" with barns located on the east side of Biddle Avenue between Elm and Oak Streets in the middle of the block. He ran his wagon two or three times a week, chiefly in the winter months, after the boats had ceased their activity. He would deliver a package to and from Detroit on a 24 hour service basis. After Larabee sold his stages, he carried on exclusively. In his combat against time and natural elements Hiram Milspaugh oftentimes experienced troublesome episodes such as the day when he left Detroit with a load of merchandise for Wyandotte businessmen only to find upon arriving in town after dark that shortly after leaving the city the end gate of his wagon had dropped, scattering flour, meat, and other goods along the length of the river road.

Within the city, local express service historically has always been associated with the name George Beebe. George's experiences became a familiar folklore among the townspeople acquainted with George Beebe and his Mail and Express Service. His story began one autumn day in 1854 when he walked his way into the embryonic village of Wyandotte. George walked, not from any particular leaning towards pedestrianism, but because "Foot and Walker" route was the only one that led to the future he was seeking. The river flowed by Wyandotte, as it had flowed by centuries past, but no boats were stopping here in 1854.

George recalled that he walked twelve miles following the directions given him in Detroit and put up at the Biddle House at the end of his journey. An inspection of the straggling settlement with the Indian name yielded little encouragement—indeed, the name was all that was visible of the town. But he had been at such pains to come here and as there was

no way of getting out except by laborious walking, he concluded to stay." George helped out at the Eureka Iron Works for a few years but with the remembrance of transportation vividly impressed upon his mind he entered the business of express service early in the 1880's. A span of spirited French ponies was his trademark. The pioneers remembered that "these critters ran away more times and inflicted more damage than any other critters in town." The authorities were never able to induce him to drive a steady slow team. For 18 years, in fair and foul weather, he faithfully carried the mails and express between the depot and the downtown businesses, rendering service in a happy-go-lucky manner.

After George Beebe's death in 1898, Jack McCleary succeeded to the mail express business for the next 15-20 years. Typical of Wyandotte's "men of the road" Jack McCleary was also a picturesque and familiar character in the Wyandotte story. He drove a one-horse dray. On off hours he could be found at every social function or civic celebration since he was not restrained by family responsibilities. His leisure time address was the "engine house club" at the old city hall.

In 1875 Andrew Flock introduced a dray service on the city streets that testifies to another one of Wyandotte's traditional businesses which has carried on through three generations. Fred Flock, the son of Andrew, entered the business in 1911 and Franklin, the grandson, continued in 1941. In the pioneer days Andrew doubled his draying service with civic enterprises. His distinctive team of mules stood ready at a moment's notice to drag the fire engine, or pull the water wagon. A regular routine dray activity was meeting the 4:00 P.M. freight delivery which arrived on the boat "Riverside." At other times the patient mule team waited upon the trains. As the years passed, the Flocks joined the group which carried goods to and from Detroit. It took a whole day for the trip to Detroit and often times when the road conditions were exceptionally bad, Andrew and his son, Fred, would have to stay overnight at Delray. About 1912 their business really boomed. Weekly meat deliveries became a specialty with the Flocks. Eighteen to twenty tons of meat were shipped into Wyandotte by the Swift, Armour, Wilson, Cuddahy, and Hammond Meat distributors. The Flocks delivered these tons from Ford City to Rockwood. They were able to haul lumber, stone, and other express at the same time. Building supplies for the post office construction, telephone building, the Grosse Ile dirigible hangar, and show luggage for the Majestic Theater have been listed on their business ledger. From mules and horses to automobiles, from parcel express to piano and furniture, this firm has progressed with the history of the city.

After 1910 several trucking firms were seen on the city streets bearing evidence to the growth and expanding needs of mercantile interests. In 1916 George Bloomfield started a parcel delivery continuing until 1941.



Soncrant delivery truck during the 1920's

The Soncrant name entered the transportation story in 1915. George and son Roy Soncrant bought out the Walt Conway Express, which had been operating along with the other trucking firms of Del Parish and Sam Wright hauling every type of express or furniture the citizens had need of moving. Today a third generation is represented in the firm by Roy Junior, grandson of George, who took up where his father left off in 1936.

William Cheplick obtained a license in 1929 to operate the Wyandotte Cartage Company, and has contributed to the city's business welfare by hauling store fixtures and furniture.

The American Express Company recognized Wyandotte's growth in population and mercantile enterprises in 1912 by establishing a headquarters here in Wyandotte in the Wyandotte Savings Bank Building.

Besides the important matter of transporting goods, the problem of pedestrianism loomed significantly in the minds of the people. Many

stories concerning the period when they walked their way to communication with their fellowmen are told by the pioneer raconteurs punctuated with the emphatic words, "I tell you, those were the days." Mud—mud—mud—squeezy and cold and low swale conditions impeded every footstep. Yet many farmers walked in from West Wyandotte territory to the churches and the stores. Some walked to church in Ecorse from as far as the Trenton area together with their neighbor Wyandotters. St. Charles Church in Wyandotte was organized to relieve this pedestrian problem. Many walked the entire distance to Detroit.

After business and home life had become firmly established, the horses, wagons, and carriages began to ease the weary foot-sore pedestrians. Nevertheless, this was a workingman's town and only a few could enjoy the luxury of a carriage, wagon, and horses. The human spirits were generous, however, and catching rides became a regular order of the daily routine. Thomas's Drug Store was a popular depot for the catch-a-ride service on the Bittorf Meat Wagon line. One of Lena Bittorf Cadaret's fondest memories revolves around the many times she approached Thomas's to find a large group of shipyard workers watching down Biddle Avenue for the clippity-clop of her horse's hoofs. A mad rush ensued to see who and how many could crowd upon the wagon for a lift up to the shipyards. She never stopped at the meat shop but took each load directly to the yards. The Bittorf jitney service for the school children was more troublesome. Merry children clambered on her wagon on the way to school, "with nothing to do" but take them to the school door, which often times proved a burden, since there were so many trips to make carrying meat. Nelson Dupy in his wagon with the fringed umbrella and John Franklin in his carriage and wintertime sleigh never rode without passengers. So it was with everyone in the pioneer days—those with means of transportation shared with those who were not so privileged.

A few businessmen had the foresight to realize that liveryies would be an accommodation for the public as well as a lucrative enterprise for themselves. J. P. Debo, proprietor of the Arlington Hotel, established a livery in the 1880's directly in the rear of the hotel on the corner of First and Oak Streets. In 1899 John Bigler, the meat shop owner, entered the livery business near Second and Eureka with the opening of "one of the most up-to-date liveryies in this section of the country."

In the late 1870's a regular hack service was instituted by "Charley" Roll, who became one of Wyandotte's most familiar figures and picturesque characters, until his death in 1907. He was born in Germany and came to Wyandotte between 1867-1872. He maintained a regular omnibus

service to and from the numerous hotels, including the world famous River Park Health Resort, and offering the special service of furnishing the baptismal carriage in the city.

His visits to the numerous local taverns during the lax hours of his daily business imbued him with such exuberant good spirits that oftentimes his transit services were not appreciated. At one time a drummer sued him on the grounds of failing to make the train at the Oak street station. The case was tried in Detroit and a judgment of \$45.00 awarded against "Charley." Charley pleaded a defense of sick horses. Another couple, man and wife, vowed never to return to Wyandotte after experiencing "Charley's" literal interpretation of their directive to hasten to the station. A wild ride down Oak street, sometimes in the road, sometimes in the gutter and on the sidewalk, narrow brushes with trees and poles, Charley ever insistently urging the horses, faster and faster, in spite of the excited protests of his occupants, brought them to the station in a state of exhaustion.

One episode nearly erased the Roll hack service from Wyandotte history. While waiting for a 5:45 train north he fell asleep and his span of horses decided to walk down the middle of the tracks and meet the train. The engineer of the approaching train observed the bobbling of lights on the omnibus along the ties and applied the brakes just in time to save one horse and Charley. The one horse was killed.

Competition began to plague "Charley" Roll's service in July, 1891. Joseph Willetts of Monroe came to Wyandotte and introduced another "first class hack" on the line between the depot, boats, hotels, and private residences. His calling stand was the Arlington Hotel. Weddings and funerals were given his special attention.

However, new encroachments in the hack business never dimmed the niche in Wyandotte history reserved for "Charley" Roll. The record states in love and charity that:

"Day after day, through storm and rain, whether it blows a hurricane or the sun shines out, Charley Roll, the veteran hack driver, can be found at the depot with coach and pair of blooded equines in quest of passengers. It matters not at what hour of the day or night trains come or depart this old timer can be found at his post, and he knows every travelling man and all know him. He is a favorite with train men and all the boys have a word of recognition for the 'old man.' It is said, around the Arlington, that Charley has been made an offer for his team by the government officials who are in quest of battle chargers, but the hotel lads love to have a little fun with the veteran. He says no money would induce him to part with the pair of flyers

and while Maud S. and Nancy Hanks are able to jog to the depot they will get there on time. When the old stager is called to wear angels' wings above the blue ethereal, his good humored face will be sadly missed by frequenters of the Union depot. Those who know him hope that it is a long trip before he passes in his checks to the baggage master."*

The time was not long in arriving from horse and buggy and wagon days to the 1890's and the turn of the century when new and revolutionary methods in transportation excited the citizens of Wyandotte town—bicycles and automobiles. Mayor Campbell's purchase of a bicycle in January, 1891—the only one in town—proved news worthy. For several months he practiced riding daily in the mold loft at the shipyards before making his debut on the city streets March, 1891. Immediately in May, 1891, Dr. Lambert not to be outdone invested in a new Rush bicycle. Buzzing interest in this new item hustled P. E. Atchison into a local bicycle agency as early as May, 1891. His first orders were machines for Dr. N. T. Langlois, John S. Van Alstyne, Jr., and himself. Each day brought new purchasers and new names to the bicycle register. Joseph George, Joseph Gartner, Griff Thomas, Bert Clark, A. D. Allen, Bartley Doyle, George and John T. Melody, William Fury, Edgar Haven, and Clyde Baxter, were among the first to enjoy the pleasure of a whirl on the city streets. Business was so good that A. B. Clarke opened an agency for the Columbia bicycle. This make, the first to be manufactured in America, was also the most popular kind in Wyandotte. The Cinch, Crescent, Juno, Cudenda, Kenwood, the Clipper, Sterling, Victor, The Rob Roy, Black Hawk, Escort, and Victoria were other makes advertised for sale by the local agencies. Two of the first women bicyclists to startle the eyes and loosen the tongues were Misses Myrtle Kirby and Hattie Smith in 1891. By 1895 women on bicycles in Wyandotte were no longer news, with Mrs. D. N. Perry, Miss Bertha Denman, Mrs. Joseph Loselle, Miss Florence Girardin, Miss Della Andrews, Mrs. A. E. Atchison, and Miss Mable Hunter and others, joining the list of lady bicyclists. The girl riders created a bit of tongue wagging when they talked of adopting the bloomer costume worn by the lady bicyclists in Bellville, whose appearances on the streets had caused many "diverging remarks." The Wyandotte ladies, however, expected to wear their bloomers covered with a skirt reaching to the ankles. This new medium of transportation, however, brought its traffic problems to the city. Most of the bicyclists rode

**Wyandotte Herald*, March 25, 1898.

on the sidewalks, which endangered the pedestrian since many of the riders were beginners in the art of driving. Common remarks in the city were to the effect that the contortions the beginning riders went through "beat anything ever seen in a circus." Hit and run riders became a menace. The council took under advisement an ordinance prohibiting riding of such vehicles on the sidewalk and at the same time the citizens were admonished that "pedestrians will simplify matters if they will adopt a rule of paying no attention to bicycle riders. People afoot are in no danger from riders if they will go along as if they didn't see them. They will always be given the right of way. But when pedestrians begin to jump up and down and run to and fro, there is then a possibility of a collision."

The craze of bicycle riding developed into a sport as well with Dr. Walter Lambert taking the initiative in organizing a bicycle club. The old race track in the "forty acres" became a favorite resort for the fun of riding. Long trips to Monroe, Orchard Lake, and the country side in general were added to the city's calendar of events.

Bicycles continued to make news in the city throughout the 1890's. In 1896 Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Ford, Jr., purchased the first tandem in town, and the new rear view mirror fad introduced in 1896 was voted a "regular gem" by the "dear girls." The male wheelmen were not too impressed, even though this device was supposed to warn them of the "scorcher" pressing down from behind. By the close of the century, Wyandotte boasted 150-200 bicycle riders and an ordinance against sidewalk riding which was to be strictly enforced on Sundays. A special cinder path was built on the east side of the street car tracks from Northline to Pine Street. At Pine Street the path crossed over to the west side of the tracks and continued south. This special bicycle path was intended to "shut off" sidewalk riding entirely.

The approaching interest in automobiles served to dismiss the bicycle age with this prophecy by "Dolly" Haven. "The biggest factor in the future of cycling is the small boy. The small boy, it is needless to say, has taken hold of the sport with all the enthusiasm the most fault-finding manufacturer could ask for. A few years ago he was satisfied with a cumbersome solid tire and poorly constructed wheel, but today he is a judge of the merits of the various pneumatic tires, and he has absolutely no use for a wheel without ball bearings and all the latest improvements."

The advent of the automobile at the turn of the century attracted little attention and interest in Wyandotte since the people were slow in purchasing this new-fangled vehicle. Road conditions were still very poor,

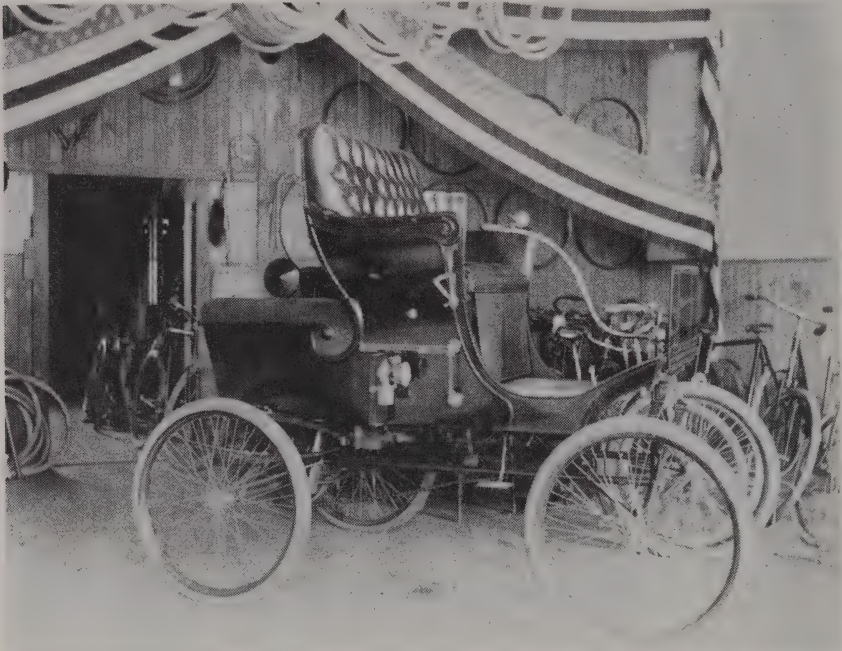
so that those who adventured with the gadget continued to maintain horses and carriages for trips into Detroit, the country side and the extreme limits of the city. Pedestrianism and horse drawn wagons and carriages with all the accompanying dangers of run-aways still offered more security than the automobile. In the meantime, street car service had been instituted so that the stage coach of the Civil War days, the lone horse riders, the slow express wagons consuming a whole day's time to the big city were no longer inconveniences. The automobile seemed to offer nothing new or feasible in facilitating transportation.



Dwight Baxter driving a car on muddy Biddle Avenue between Orange and Eureka Avenue.

The name, date, and purchaser of the first automobile is a disputed fact along with many other matters in Wyandotte history. E. L. Ford's purchase of a "carriage propelled by steam" in the summer of 1901 seems to be the most likely item to be credited with a "first" tag. His first trip was a Sunday tour to Toledo with a running time of 48 miles in four hours. He and his friends made the return trip the next day. The doctors in the city vied for similar honors as the first automobile users. Dr. Lambert, Dr. Langlois with a high wheeler, which he built himself, and Dr. Brighton have been mentioned as "first" owners. Mark Bacon also has been considered by some pioneers as a purchaser of one of the first cars. He, at least, was driving, in 1905, a Winton painted white. Thomas Coop

invested in an automobile in 1907 and received an ovation as a skillful driver. John Bigler and Clyde Baxter also became owners in the same year. In 1909 Fred E. Van Alstyne and Henry Roehrig were reported as the latest investors.

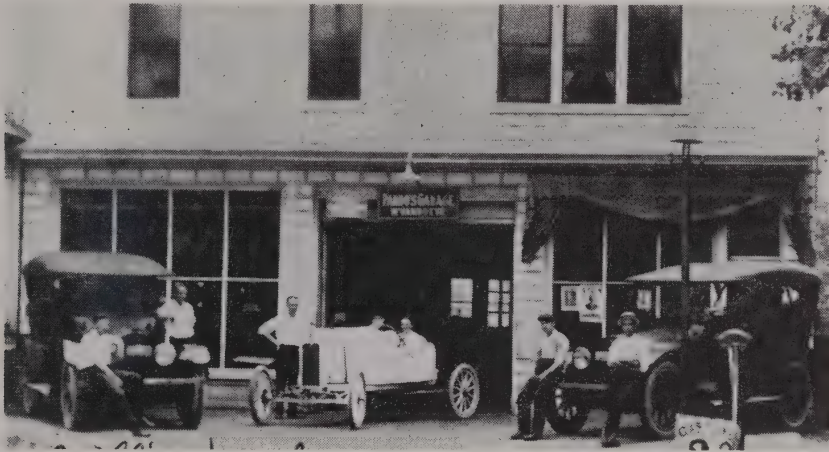


First automobile built in Wyandotte by Dwight Baxter in a bicycle shop at the rear of Brohl's Bakery on Eureka Avenue.

Wyandotte was not without an automobile experimenter. Dwight Baxter spent two years during the early 1900's building his own steam car in a garage back of Brohl's Bakery on Eureka Avenue, doubtless the first such construction in the city. The car was ready for trips into the country and to Detroit during the 1904 and 1905's. On one such Detroit trip his excessive speed of 12 miles an hour aroused the ire of a Detroit policeman, who hastened on his bicycle to overtake Mr. Baxter and admonish him for driving 12 miles an hour on Lafayette Avenue and endangering the safety of beer wagons attempting to cross the street.

By 1910 enough cars were in evidence to warrant the enforcement of a speeding law. The local police were instructed "to curb auto speeders to a maximum of 10 miles an hour; when it is possible, to obtain names of persons violating the law; to post notices at either end of Biddle Avenue notifying automobilists as to what they may expect."

The biggest news concerning automobiles to break in Wyandotte was in the year 1911 when A. W. Pardo opened the first garage between Detroit and Monroe. He erected a cement block building on the east side of Biddle between Chestnut and Oak for this purpose. The building is still standing today, converted into a bowling alley. Living quarters were arranged upstairs so that Mr. Pardo would be available for night and day service. His first adventure in automotive merchandising was the Hupmobile, which he continues to think of as his "first love." Later he introduced the Ford car to Wyandotte and sold the first Ford in Wyandotte to Dr. O. S. Groff in 1909. In 1913 he took over the Ford agency.



First Garage of William Pardo, east side of Biddle Avenue, between Chestnut and Elm Streets. Hupmobile; Ford Racer built in the garage and used in races at the State Fairgrounds by local participants; Overland car.

Prior to running the garage he had operated the sale of gasoline from a 100-gallon tank in the rear of his lot. In 1912 he installed a pump on the curb in front of his garage. It was a crude affair which delivered one gallon at a time. After one gallon it returned to normal and the method repeated until the order had been filled.

"Bill" Pardo continued to be a part of Wyandotte's automobile history until his retirement in 1941.

Although slow in catching on in Wyandotte, the automobile is no stranger to Wyandotte history in the centennial year as it continues to plague the Council with its demands for improved roads, highways, traffic controls, and off street parking. All of the forms of transportation, the stage coach, lone horse rider, express wagons, walking, omnibus,

street cars, boats, and even the commuter trains have been vanquished by the dynamic horseless carriage.

It was the automobile which later answered the question for the more efficient Inter-City Transportation when it translated hacks and wagon services into buses and taxicabs. The street cars, interurbans, and jitneys to Detroit and Trenton distracted interest for a while from the problems and needs of the expanding city, but after the annexation of territories had been completed there developed the need for some organized method of transportation within the city.

The first attempt at organized motor coach service was instituted in February, 1928, by the People's Motor Coach Company, subsidiary to the Detroit United Railways. In November, 1928, The Eastern Michigan Motorbuses (formerly the Detroit United Railways), successors to the People's Coach Company, applied for the franchise into west Wyandotte. Meanwhile, John Slapack had been running a jitney into west Wyandotte as a partner in the D. W. & T. (Detroit, Wyandotte, Trenton) jitney lines.

In the late twenties, he instituted one or two passenger buses which were not formally franchised by the city government. In 1933 the city decided to adopt a bus ordinance granting a franchise to John Slapack under the name, "West Side Bus." Slapack continued this operation until his death in 1937. At that time the widow and son, John Demsky, took over the company and renamed it the Wyandotte Loop Bus Company. This company is still in operation.

With the expansion of territory and the limiting of bus franchise to one or two companies, a few enterprising individuals realized the advantage of a correlating transportation system by means of taxicabs.

Following the days of Charley Roll's omnibus, an automobile taxicab was operated by William Pardo with headquarters in his first garage. Mr. Pardo maintained several cars for hire, including the first Model-T Ford taxicab. These vehicles were popular among the foreign nationality groups who have the custom of celebrating holidays, weddings, and christenings with considerable festivity. His drivers were selected from the group of fellows who hung around the garage enjoying the fascination attendant upon the new automobile age: Bill Knapp, Tommy Priskorn, Stanley Roberts, Fred Genthe, Stephen Daniels, Bill Rummel, Walter Wurst, "Alvie" Krebs, Sylvester Affholter, and Ralph Nixon. Some of these men received inspiration for future automobile businesses, and Mr. Pardo has become known as the "father of the automobile business in Wyandotte." Even Mrs. Pardo took a turn driving upon call. In

1917 the Fred Flocks purchased a model T Ford from William Pardo, who encouraged them to add taxiing to their draying and trucking field. Mrs. Fred Flock assumed this service as her special field. It was still necessary for salesmen to reach the depot in a hurry, and privately owned cars were yet few and far between in Wyandotte. William Pardo and Fred Flock then became the "Charley Rolls" of the automobile age.

When "Prohibition" took effect, the local taxi drivers decided that life was a bit too rugged and uncertain to continue on the road in this area, no matter how lucrative the inducement. Therefore, a lull in such type of transportation in the 1920's made the application for a taxicab license in 1929 seem like a new adventure. The ordinance was passed May 10, 1929. In July of the same year, the first licensed taxicab to operate under the ordinance was issued to Stephen M. Martin who had made application for ten cabs. The city granted space in front of the Rich Lunch Wagon, adjacent to the present location of Federal Department Store.⁴¹

Everett Richards followed this first enterprise in 1929, and the Riverside Cab Company, managed by Reno Piner, was also recognized on the city's streets during this period. In 1937 George Ringo was granted a franchise for the Wyandotte Cab Company after buying out Everett Richards and the Riverside Cab Company. This company has continued to be the dominant cab service throughout the years. In 1951 George Ringo gave up his long tenure of management and sold the company to Bernard Brohl and Gamper Linge. Howard and Robert Brohl sought a license for the Parkside Cab in 1945. The Parkside operated from a stand at the corner of second and Eureka. In 1947, Kenny Smith and Charles Hall purchased the Parkside but soon disbanded, and Chester Malkowski and Raymond Gilewski took over the franchise, attempting to battle competition in the cab business under the name, "West Side Cab." This partnership was short-lived with Raymond Gilewski continuing alone after September 1947. Raymond Gilewski finally relinquished the West Side franchise to George Ringo and his Wyandotte Cab. The cabs still carry the West Side name but are operated under the management of the Wyandotte Cab Company.

⁴¹It is interesting to note the traditional tendencies which have always characterized Wyandotte have prevailed over the years in the transportation story. For the past twenty-five years or more, taxicabs and inter-city buses have used the same location on Eureka Avenue for the starting point of their services.

The Homestead Cab, owned by Richard Yeulette and Albert Naccarato, was chartered in 1948. The Homestead has confined its operations largely to the extreme sector of Wyandotte with a stand first at Fort and Vine-wood, then Westgate Service Station, and at present at 3325 Fort Street. In November, 1953, Gladys Dulco purchased the Homestead service.

Just as in the pioneer days when in rain or shine the faithful drivers of hacks and express wagons lightened the burden of the travelers struggling with distances and muddy road conditions, so the drivers of inter-city buses and taxis today make it possible for our citizens to enjoy the pleasures of country living, meet the hurried appointment, or alleviate the emergencies brought on by sudden bad weather conditions, or limitations of the family car. No matter how large or small a city may be, inter-city transportation has its place in the well-being and development of the citizens' life.

Although it may seem, in this modern period, that a great deal of emphasis has been placed on the muddy and treacherous road conditions around the Wyandotte area, it was a very real factor and problem to many pioneers. The progressives among the business men, and governmental officials were always seeking newer and better methods to secure quicker and easier ways into Detroit. It is no surprise to Wyandotters then, that John C. Cahalan should have been one of the first to join a syndicate in 1890 which attempted to bring the street cars into Wyandotte. The franchise petition was defeated, how-



Street car on Biddle Avenue between Poplar and Walnut Streets.

ever, in the Detroit council at its third reading. The people were quick to realize that the street car fight should continue since the history of every suburban line in the country had shown that real estate values and general productivity of the community had increased with the advent of a car line system.

In 1891 Strahearn Hendrie of Detroit took over the franchise and completed plans for the laying of the tracks from River Rouge to Wyandotte under the name of the Detroit Suburban Street Railway Company.

Monday morning, April 11, 1892, was the date marked on the calendar when a gang of 40 to 50 Italian laborers appeared on Biddle Avenue ready to excavate for the laying of the tracks. In May, 1892, articles of



Arlington Hotel, corner of Elm and Biddle Avenue. Laying of the street car tracks, 1892. Left, Charles Roll and his omnibus; right, Joseph Willetts and his carriage.

association were formed to change the name to the Wyandotte River Railway Company, with an office in Wyandotte.

Events moved rapidly and the Memorial Day week-end was chosen as the initial date for placing the cars into active service. What a day this turned out to be! Two trains of two cars each were jammed all day with crowds eagerly trying out the new contraption. The motorized outfit consisted of two street cars attached as trailers to a forward car which held a steam power unit called the Healy Motor. The power of the engine was so minor that with a heavy load on wet rails it was always necessary for the passengers to get off in the mud and push the car up a small hill in Ecorse Township. Sometimes the car would leave the tracks and the passengers would have to get off again and replace it. At no time did the speed create any nervous tension, since the passengers were able to jump off and on at any point, sinking knee deep in mud. The boilers were said also to have been too large for the engines and the surplus steam would sometimes blow off with a force that would shake the whole train and frighten those who did not know what the sudden noise meant.

It mattered not how many deficiencies this crude outfit displayed, it was greeted as a wonderful innovation by those who had been walking and struggling with slower means of transportation. Many workmen took advantage of this system and went back and forth from their daily labors in the motor cars. Edward Megges of Wyandotte became the first conductor on the line and Joseph Megges was hired later as an engineer on one of the Healy Motors. At first the street car franchise covered the route from Wyandotte to River Rouge where the passengers alighted, crossed the bridge on foot and resumed the journey on the Detroit cars. The old Rouge bridge was not stable enough to carry the cars. In 1896 a new bridge was built and the cars continued through over the bridge.

The escapades of the Healy powered cars were not long endured. Within a year the Healy Motors were replaced with electricity. Nevertheless the temperamental Healy Motors were able to credit one redeeming feature to their brief existence—not one person was maimed or killed.

The first electrified cars began to run from Wyandotte to River Rouge in November, 1892, “knocking silly” all previous time schedules with their “excessive” speeds. Electricity made it possible, eventually, to install heaters in place of stoves in the cars for winter comfort.

Again the street cars brought tribulations to the citizens. Joe Kirby at the shipyard was the first to notice that the electrified trolley line was “playing hob” with the local telephone system. He lost no time in rushing into the street, stopping a car, and pouring his tale of woe into the ears of Mr. Hendrie who was in charge of a trial run. It seems the trolley line and the telephone wires crossed each other without sufficient insulation clearance. Telephone conversation was impossible because of the continual whirring in the ear whenever a car passed. For a short time after the telephone unpleasantness had been eliminated, the citizens enjoyed faster and more convenient transportation including the carrying of package freight—with limitations. Some of the aldermen did not think that cabbages or rutabagas should be tolerated on the cars. Later in the 1900’s the cars were used for funeral trips to Woodmere and Woodlawn cemeteries in Detroit. Rental arrangements were made for this special car, upon which the casket was taken along with the mourners. The street car transferred to the Fort Street line at Dearborn Avenue, Delray, enabling the funeral party to proceed to the cemeteries without interruption. For social occasions a special car called The Yolanda was available for rent.

Everything continued very well until 1898. Then the citizens complained that it was just good luck for them to arrive safely at their destination after the oscillating-exercise they were forced to endure. One citizen expressed himself with this opinion:

"Man bids his family good-bye with the same feeling as if he were about to undertake a trip to Havana. And it is not until the telephone announces his safe arrival at the office that those dear to him can be assured of his not being stuck in the Delray mud or buried in the Rouge ditches. The cars roll along the track like a boat in a storm, and if not bowing backwards and forwards are rocking from side to side. When the bounding motion is in effect there is no telling at what moment the car will leave the track."

The complainers overlooked their own short-comings and particular contribution to the dangers of the street car travel. Accidents occurred frequently and painfully because individuals resisted all attempts in public safety education and persisted in alighting from the cars backwards, oftentimes falling in the mud and incurring bodily injuries as well as loss of dignity.

The answer to better car service seemed to materialize in the sale of the line to J. C. Hutchins and A. B. DuPont in December, 1898. This company added six new cars capable of thirty miles an hour speed and equipped with special features in sanitation, ventilation and beauty. The management changed again in 1901 when the Everett-Moore Syndicate bought the line. At that time the street car system was considered by the Wyandotte citizens as having been "cobbled up" by the United Railway of Detroit.

The popularity of electrified transportation had increased so rapidly at the beginning of the twentieth century that promoters envisioned lucrative returns from longer journeys on the cars competing in speed with the trains. In 1901 the Everett-Moore Syndicate experimented with the first electric trip from Cleveland to Detroit. The trip was made in installments from Cleveland to Toledo on the Lake Shoreline, then from Toledo to Monroe. At Monroe a transfer in cars was made to the Detroit Toledo Shoreline as far as Trenton, and then from Trenton the journey was completed by the Wyandotte Detroit River line. This momentous electric journey started the completion of plans for a through interurban road from Detroit to Toledo free from the inconvenience of transferring from point to point. The plans for the through line were organized and started in 1902, but it was not until the early part of the year 1904 that the franchise and work of laying the tracks from Trenton and Wyandotte to Detroit was accomplished, and the through

electrified line from Detroit to Monroe became a reality, under the name Detroit, Toledo Short Line.

The station for the new interurban service was located at Bates and Jefferson in Detroit. Along the road which followed a route west of the railroad tracks in Wyandotte were four power generating units: Ford City, South Rockwood, Erie, and Monroe. A fine brick passenger depot was built in Wyandotte on the north side of the street between what is now known as Electric Avenue and Ninth. Station stops were permitted at crossroads, or street intersections as well as the authorized locations. In this area the stops were posted as Detroit, Woodmere, Oakwood, South Dearborn, Ecorse, Ford City, Goddard, Northline, Glenwood, Wyandotte, Sibley, Trenton, Maple Grove, Gibraltar and Rockwood. The journey consumed only one hour from Detroit to Toledo.

Shortly after World War I, the power and influence of the automobile cast its deadly shadow over the street cars and interurbans. Jitneys began to compete in the transportation story, pressuring the street railway service. In its last struggling throes for existence the street car could only grind out its everlasting message that its purpose of booming the Down River district had been accomplished. Before the advent of the cars in 1892 only seventy houses and stores existed between the River Rouge bridge and Ecorse. A similar scarcity existed between Ecorse and Wyandotte. In the cars' twilight years of the 1920's scarcely a vacant lot was in evidence in either district.

The lights were out, the doors closed, and the shades pulled in Wyandotte homes when the last interurban swayed and tossed through Wyandotte October 5, 1932, at 1:50 a.m. The last trolley sparks cracked and sputtered on the street cars January 17, 1931. In July, 1931, the overhead trolley lines were removed, and the tracks later covered with paving. In 1941, at the time of the war drives for steel, the paving was taken up so that the tracks could be used in the country's need. Thus it was that the historical evidences of electrified transportation had been erased forever.

The year was 1921 when the jitneys threatened the street cars. In order to meet the economic competition, the management of the street car system found it necessary to increase the fares. The raise in fares aroused opposition in the Down River communities, especially in River Rouge where at one time the franchise was withdrawn in emphatic protest to the Detroit United Railways. In retaliation, strikes were called by the street car company. Instead of alleviating the trouble, the

strikes only developed the necessity for more busses and jitneys. The first busses were brought in from Saginaw during the street car strike of August 9, 1923—October 26, 1923. To settle the strike problem and to help furnish cheaper transportation, the Detroit United Railways offered to run busses in connection with street cars in the franchise petition of September, 1923. At this period there were forty to forty-five jitneys racing with dangerous speeds to reach the loading corners before the street cars, which operated on a time schedule. The busses inaugurated by the Detroit United Railways, were franchised under the name of the People's Coach Company with the coaches being furnished by the Yellow Coach Company of Chicago.

Thereupon, more bus companies entered the transportation competition in the Down River Area. In 1926 many of the independent jitneys incorporated under the Detroit, Wyandotte, Trenton transit line and were granted a franchise.

This outfit comprised about one hundred passenger cars which were operated by individual owners under a co-operative license system. Later the D. W. T. added regular busses in order to vie for advantages with the People's Coach Company.

In 1927 River Rouge, under Mayor Valois, decided to introduce its own deluxe bus service with an organization called the Community Coach Company. Wyandotters were startled with its novel advertising method. Thirty busses arrayed in festive trimmings paraded with fanfare and glory from River Rouge through Wyandotte. This bus operation continued under protest by the D. W. T. who had been granted the franchise. The franchising of transportation had not been taken seriously in this early period of bus development so the confusion and dissatisfaction were rampant. As a result, by 1927-1928, there existed a surfeit of transportation in the area to the financial disadvantage of all. The streets were crowded with commercial vehicles; including one hundred jitneys, thirty Community Coaches, busses of the People's Coach Company, and the street cars. Public opinion was active in favoring the service offered by the Detroit, Wyandotte, Trenton Transit Company.

Reluctantly facing the fact that busses had proven to be faster and more efficient for the workmen, the street cars gave up the competitive fight by entering receivership in 1925. They continued running, however, on a day by day franchise until 1931. September 5, 1928, was set for the auction sale of the Detroit United Railways. However, four companies decided to re-organize the Detroit United Railways under the name Eastern Michigan Railways and to substitute the name

Eastern Michigan Motor Busses for the People's Coach Company.

In this same year, the International Harvester Company purchased the Community Coaches and immediately resold them to the Eastern Motor Busses, thus eliminating one competitive bus company.

The struggle for bus control continued between the D. W. T., Eastern Motor Busses and the Grosse Ile Transit Company which had entered the story at this time. For several years "bus wars" among the companies operating on the roads brought unhappy, unfortunate, and very often dangerous service to the commuters. In the battle, franchises were granted and revoked, injunctions served and rebuffed with the Eastern Michigan Transportation Company securing the advantage in spite of the public preference for the D. W. T.

The advantage of a single franchise slowly evolved by 1938 so that it was agreeable for the Great Lakes Greyhound Lines to be granted a major control in the transportation of this area in 1939. The Greyhound Lines operating under the name Eastern Michigan Motor Busses purchased the Grosse Ile Transit Company and the Detroit, Wyandotte, Trenton Transit Company and re-organized them into a system called the Wyandotte Coaches Inc. In 1941 the name Greyhound was resumed and since that date transportation in the Down River Area has been firmly established on a safe and convenient schedule.

The Greyhound control has not been without incident. A never-to-be-forgotten episode in its history was the foisting of "cattle cars" upon the city of Wyandotte during World War II. In 1942, under the influence of patriotic fervor, the Greyhound Company introduced what the management termed the "advantages of a revolutionary type vehicle"—The Trailer Bus. The translation of this "advantage" meant the conversion of former haulaway chassis and frames into trailer coaches which would furnish a quantity of seating capacity and at the same time return thousands of tons of iron per unit to the government for war work. Wyandotte was to receive the dubious honor of being the first in the entire nation to experiment in the "revolution." The busses were long gray ghastly chambers, fitted with springless side benches and high port-hole windows. Human beings were stacked into the cars like cattle, hence the colloquial expression "cattle cars" injected a touch of lifesaving humor into the truly revolutionary reaction of the citizens. It surely was a "great day in the morning" when sleepy war workers climbed into new shiny comfortable busses late in 1944 and the strain of patriotism had been relieved.

With the end of the war and the return of the family car to its

full measure of operative power, the busses no longer dominate man's need for transportation.

Air

Except for a few citizens who have indulged in flight as a hobby, the matter of Wyandotte's use of the air for transportation has been confined to a hurried trip to the Willow Run Airport or to the Wayne County Air Field for a take-off with the rest of the air-minded citizens of the Wayne County area. Air transportation for express or freight has not yet been essential in this city.

Smiling reminiscently, a few citizens recall the first air incident when one thousand Wyandotters rushed in five minutes to the Marx farm out Eureka Road, on the day a barnstorming aviator dropped in on the city in August, 1919. It was thought an accident had occurred. Instead a friendly chap greeted the curious throng with an invitation for a ten minute ride for ten dollars. The response to this fantastic offer was described in terms of "a waiting line at a medical specialist office in a big city." Mayor Lambert was the first to make the flight and he reported that "the view of the city at 1500 feet was worth while."

The year was 1895 when the question was placed before the citizens of Wyandotte:

"Did you ever stop to think what splendid facilities Wyandotte had for communication with the outside world? Twenty passenger trains a day now leave the Union depot in this city. Electric cars run half-hourly on the Wyandotte & Detroit River railway. A first-class passenger boat touches at this port twice a day now, and will in a few weeks be making two or more round trips daily. Surely, the Wyandotte man who wants to get out of town in a hurry has ample facilities for doing so."

In 1954 a Wyandotte man with the same desires may get out of town in a hurry. The same question and answer is apt. Only the method and manner of vehicle are different!

Communication

Postal Service is the link that binds together the structure of a complex civilization. There is not a function of any kind, public or private, that is not compelled in the final analysis to use the post-office. Because of this necessary tie-up with all matters of business, the growth of postal services reflects the general development of the community at large.

In the beginning, the unfavorable factors of mud roads and lack of adequate transportation commenced the story of mail delivery. Walking

or riding to Ecorse was the way to get the mail, unless some obliging neighbor was willing to accommodate his fellow men. The community was not long in convincing Washington, D. C. that the village of Wyandotte, supporting a population of 600, was deserving of independent postal service! Sometime during the year 1855 a man by the name of William Sickles was appointed postmaster and thereby granted the opportunity of looking at all the postal cards before passing them on to their recipients. Mr. Sickles owned a store at the corner of Elm and Biddle Avenue. He combined his duties as the first postmaster with the activities of a general store. A person was handed his mail only after the customer received his pound of crackers and the lady her yard of calico! In 1856 Dr. Loring received the appointment under the Buchanan administration. However, owing to "considerable pressure being brought to bear upon him by a number of citizens of opposite political faith, he resigned his position." Then H. H. Eby was appointed in his place during the same year, 1856. In 1864 during Abraham Lincoln's administration, Robert W. Leighton was appointed postmaster, and moved the post office to his own building on the site now occupied by Kaul's Dry Goods store. James Whitehead⁴² followed Robert Leighton in 1869-1870 in his own store on the present location of the Asmus Hardware store. In succession the following postmasters have served Wyandotte throughout the years: Rev. O. D. Hibbard, (a Presbyterian minister) 1870-1872; William H. Denman, 1872-1885, re-appointed 1889-1893; Jeremiah Drennan, 1885-1889; Henry Roehrig, 1893-1897; Fred J. Johnson, 1897-1901; Everett N. Clark, 1901-1915; John McInerney, 1915-1923; Arthur E. Baisley, 1932-1936; Adam Pryzybylski, 1936-1953; Albert Hebda, 1954-.

During the first few administrations the stores of the postmasters doubled for an office. Rev. Hibbard conducted the affairs in a store run by his son near the Asmus Hardware store. William Denman was the first to institute an up-to-date post office that was used exclusively as such. The opening of the office attracted considerable notice since it was reported Mr. Denman furnished it from his own funds. It was described as:

". . . The new quarters provided by Postmaster Denman will place the Wyandotte office on a level with the best in the state, so far as convenience and equipment are concerned. Mr. Denman has erected a new brick store, especially adapted for this purpose, and has purchased a handsome set of

⁴²Some sources give the initials "T. W."



Post Office, east side of Biddle Avenue. E. N. Clark, postmaster, in front.



Interior of the Post Office, Fred Johnson, postmaster, at window

office furniture from the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company of Stamford, Connecticut. The case containing the letter boxes is of ash wood, finished in oil, with handsome panels, scroll work and polished brass mountings. There are 500 of the call boxes and 60 lock boxes, and this number can be increased at any time if necessary. They are constructed after the latest pattern, with patent wire bottoms. On the south side of the office is the money order department, separated from the main room for privacy. Back of this is the post master's private room. The doors, desks, etc., are all of hard wood oiled. Frosted glass windows and brass plates give a decidedly rich appearance. The north side of the office is devoted to the American express company's business.

"In order to expedite the distribution of mail, there are two windows for box delivery, and another for general delivery. Two doors in the front of the building—one for entrance and another for exit—will also tend to do away with the confusion that exists at mail time. All the boxes, drawers and doors are provided with the celebrated Yale locks, which have been officially recognized by the government."*

In 1885 when Jeremiah Drennan became postmaster, the office was moved to his business block at the corner of Maple and Biddle, now known as Neisners' corner. Mr. Roehrig, in 1893, moved it back to the old location on the east side of Biddle between Elm and Oak Streets, on part of the site occupied by Lynch & Sullivan today. In 1905 Everett Clark moved the office to the Lacy building, corner of Elm and Biddle Avenue where it remained for ten years until John McInerney was appointed postmaster in 1915. In April, 1916, new equipment was purchased and the post office opened its doors directly across the road in the Cahalan block, now Weaver's Clothing. The fifth and last move before the construction of the new building was made by Arthur E. Baisley in 1923. The volume of business had increased to such an extent that the move to the ample Dieteker block was necessary while the officials negotiated for a new building. This placed the post office directly across from the former Drennan location in the building which carries the Firestone sign today.

It took six years of planning before the new building at the corner of Elm and Second streets was ready for its dedication in 1929. With the completion of the new structure, the question of a permanent location for Uncle Sam's Wyandotte industry was settled once and for all.

The turn of the century marked the first major advancement in postal service—free mail delivery. Fred S. Johnson was postmaster

*The *Wyandotte Herald*, Friday, September 6, 1889.

when the postal receipts of \$16,000 reflected the general prosperity of local businesses and satisfied the government ruling for establishing such delivery. What at first glance seemed to be an advantageous step in city progress proved to be a disruptive force in the citizens' complacent habits. While the people were rejoicing over the appointments in 1900 of the first mail carriers, Charles A. Aubery, Arthur E. Edwards, and Watkin Benjamin, the consciousness dawned on the men folks that their social life had been placed in jeopardy. They no longer could give their wives the excuse that they had to go down to get the mail in the evening and gather at the post office or nearby stores in order to swap gossip and engage in political arguments. In fact the evening business fell off in the local stores so badly after the installation of delivery service that the retailers gave the postal service as a reason for closing the stores at six in the evening except Saturdays.

The mayor and aldermen found themselves maneuvered into a political disadvantage by having to enforce the house numbering ordinance adopted some years before. Only one half of the houses and businesses had been numbered. Considerable time and energy had to be expended by the officials in urging the people to place street numbers on their mail matter as well as their houses.

In lieu of mail boxes, postmaster Johnson announced that the mail carriers would be provided with whistles to notify the residents of their approach, since too much valuable time was wasted bringing people to their doors for mail.

Within six months after the carrier appointments, the first clerk, Henry S. Schaumberg was appointed and proved his proficiency by winning a gold watch as a second prize in a national contest offered by the Perfection Cancellng Machine Company for the fastest work done on the machine.

Before Mr. Johnson left office the fourth carrier, Christian M. Marquardt, Jr., was appointed and the territory for the carriers apportioned: Christian Marquardt from Walnut Street north to Northline, C. L. Aubery from Walnut south to Oak Street, A. E. Edwards from Oak Street to Orange, and Watkin Benjamin from Orange to Central Avenue, South Detroit.

The new adjustments seemed to have been worth the effort after the inspector sent from Washington, D. C. commented that "the office arrangement was neat, and the carriers were a good looking force."

Simultaneously with the appointment of Everett Clark in 1901 the need for postal delivery in west Wyandotte was considered. George

Perry was appointed in 1902 to cover the 24 mile route in a neighborhood of 1200 persons. Shortly after, Route 2 was established with Fred Labadie as carrier. In addition, John Reidy and Ed Milspaugh were appointed city carriers and in 1906 William Haubrick and Fred Kreiter were appointed clerks to help Henry Schaumberg. Kreiter later joined the carriers.

As Wyandotte continued to grow the post office kept pace. In July, 1909, a sub-station in L. D. Bailey's Hardware store in Ford City was established to sell stamps and money orders. The introduction of Postal Savings depository and Sunday closing marks the year 1911. The citizens learned in 1913 that their post office was equipped for any emergency. A special delivery and registered letter arrived addressed to one of the keepers in the Detroit River lighthouse. The water was rolling dangerously on the river owing to the high winds, so that delivering mail in a rowboat was impossible. Nevertheless, postmaster Clark came to the rescue personally and carried the mail in his launch to its destination.

After John McNerney replaced Everett Clark in 1915 six more carriers were appointed: Joseph E. Nuttall, Henry F. Reichwage, Carl Hammer, Arthur Marlow, James Birdsall, and George Bain. The routes were increased to cover 25 to 29 miles' range including River Rouge and Dearborn.

The first air mail service out of Detroit took off from Grosse Ile in 1918, but availability of the service to Wyandotte did not occur until 1924.

More carriers were added and routes expanded under Arthur E. Baisley until there were 14 regular carriers at the time of Adam Pryzybylski's appointment in 1936. Since that time the post office force has increased to 38 carriers, 30 clerks and a total number of 95 employees.

In the eventful fifty years of free delivery another milestone was passed with the dedication, in 1949, of the West Side Branch located on Fort Street between Vinewood and Walnut Streets. From a small village to a thriving dynamic industrial city, the post office has proven its loyalty to the cause of knitting the city's structural complexities into a co-operative force.

Telephone

There are few persons living in the city today who remember the time when runners were as important to the life of the village as they were in the ancient days of the Greeks and Romans. There are those present, however, who owe their safe arrival into the new world of

Wyandotte town or who were saved from journeying into another by the fast runners in their home block or neighborhood. In the village days certain Wyandotte men adept in the skill of running were designated as runners and were called upon at any hour of the day or night to run for the doctors. That, of course, was long before the advent of the telephone in 1880.

The first introduction of the telephone in Wyandotte followed closely the first date of the telephone in Michigan. Wyandotte was one of the earliest cities in Michigan to adopt its use. At first, it did not prove to be too attractive or useful to the common man. It was rather a curiosity; the exchange a place to gather and gawk. The service was crude. Iron wires were strung from roofs of buildings to tall trees. There were frequent interruptions and it was almost as easy to open a window and shout the message as it was to talk over the telephone, which, if used, required yelling into the mouthpiece.

In view of this limited use of the telephone, the laborious communication practices of early Wyandotte continued for some years after the first telephone connections had been made. The merchants found it still necessary to continue making the rounds of the homes early in the morning, taking orders for meats and groceries which were delivered later in the day. Sending children on an errand or walking to and from a point of destination and delivering the message in person also continued in vogue.

Fitzhugh "Joe" Kirby, always interested in new inventions and gadgets, installed the first telephone in the city at the shipyards and in his home at the corner of Superior and Biddle Avenues. The majority of subscribers were businessmen; just a few were included in private homes. For nineteen years, until 1899, only 18 subscribers were listed in the city. John C. Cahalan granted space in his drug store, located in the Hoersch block, for the first exchange, and thereby became the first local telephone manager.

It was from this first local pay station and under these extreme conditions that a wrong number influenced history. During an election selecting a candidate for the state legislature, John C. Cahalan was asked to telephone the results to the Detroit Free Press. The Republican candidate had won by a majority of 500. The Free Press became confused over the statistics and published a majority for the democratic candidate. Dolly Haven, the local editor, copied in his newspaper the returns printed by the Free Press. The local confidence in the reports was so extensive that as a result of this mistake, a Democrat went

to Lansing and served out the term without a single politician or Wyandotte citizen raising a voice to say "sorry, wrong number."

In 1886 the exchange was removed to the Wyandotte Savings Bank and placed under the managership of the Murphy girls, Ida, Tillie, Mary, and Emma, who took turns servicing the telephone and handling the telegraph. The telephone office remained in the bank building until 1899 when it was returned to the Cahalan Drug Store, then relocated in the Cahalan block, known today as Weaver's Clothing. A Mr. and Mrs. J. McInness were appointed in charge of the office. In 1901 Mr. McInness and family moved to Detroit and Fred W. Wakeman assumed the managership. H. J. Patterson followed as manager in 1904 through December 1, 1908, when J. N. Walker became manager. He, in turn, was succeeded by J. C. Cahalan, Jr. from 1909-1910 at which time Mr. Cahalan was transferred to the Detroit office and J. P. Hamill took charge. G. A. Sweezy became manager in the 1920's during which time the first telephone building was constructed. Wilfred E. Bartley has been manager since 1936.

With the dawn of the twentieth century the citizens found confidence in the future and importance of the telephone for their business and social life. New telephones were added in 1900 making a total of 21 subscribers. The first modest four-page directory was then issued. The list of subscribers has increased over the years keeping pace with the growth of the population and the city development until there have been 18,000 phones listed in use out of the Wyandotte exchange in the 1950's.

In 1883 the first long distance line to Wyandotte was built and connected with Trenton, followed by a connection with Grosse Ile in 1905. The year 1926 marks the next milestone of progress in telephone service. In that year the new telephone building was erected on Elm Street which incorporated the exciting new features of audible ring signals, busy signals, and automatic disconnect, eliminating the necessity of the operator giving a verbal report to the caller. New pay station phones were installed and equipped with a coin slot in which a five cent coin was to be placed before lifting the receiver to signal the operator. Just as exciting in the history of communication was the change to the dial system in the spring of 1952. New buildings were built to facilitate the efficiency of these improved innovations—an office building in 1949-1950 adjoining the older building and a super exchange structure in 1951-1952 on Fort Street at Vinewood. The latter building at the time of its construction was considered one of the most

up-to-date in modern engineering of any in the entire Michigan Bell system. It is noted for its automatic Message Accounting, recording telephone information on tape. Accompanying this latest expansion, installation of outdoor phones was increased, covering parking lots, parks, and subdivisions where many residents have been unable to obtain phones for their new homes. Extended area service was arranged so that Wyandotters could call Romulus, New Boston, Flat Rock, Rockwood, Trenton, and Detroit on a five cent message charge.

The operation of the telephone companies has followed the general telephone history throughout the area. In Wyandotte the first company was named the New State Company, which, after going into receivership, incorporated as the Michigan State Telephone Company. In 1924 the name of this concern was changed to Michigan Bell Telephone Company. In 1901 the city council fought over a franchise requested by J. W. Martin and Dr. McGlaughlin called the People's Telephone Company. They were finally granted a franchise in August, 1901. In 1905 a group formed the Home Telephone Company, later changed to Detroit River Telephone Company. In 1912 all independent companies operating within the city were purchased by the Michigan State Company, later known as Michigan Bell Telephone, and from that date there has been just the one company in the city.

Mechanical perfection and contributions have not been alone in bringing security to the city's life. The citizens have had an opportunity to experience the rewards of valor in the dutiful performance of safeguarding the community interests when the Vail Award "for noteworthy service while on the job" found suitable recipients in Wyandotte. In 1942 Miss Mary Deichelbohr of the Wyandotte office received the bronze medal for directing the police to the home of a Wyandotte family overcome by gas. The feeble calls over the phone alerted her attention. A few years later, gas endangered the life of another Wyandotter, and the telephone operators, Miss Jane Ptaskiewicz and Mrs. Opal Peterson, completed calls for doctor and ambulances. Both were honored with the Vail Award in 1947. There have been many other similar incidents of guardianship of the citizens' welfare exercised by the ever alert operators, but they have received only the rewards engendered by grateful hearts.

The telephone has climaxed the height and breadth of man's attempt to bestride the world like a colossus, and has given a paradoxical twist to the trite phrase, "East is East, West is West, and never the twain shall meet." For while the horse, automobile, street car, railroads,

airplane, and boats are capable of transporting man to the farthest corners of the world, it is the telephone, a pygmy among these giants of civilization, that brings the farthest corners of the earth into Wyandotte homes and businesses, and projects the City of Wyandotte into the world community at a moment's notice.

Public Health

Captain Bolton was very ill—so ill that he thought he had better turn the course of his boat homeward. A severe fever wracked his body. It was a period in which all sorts of fevers were attacking the people. Upon arriving at his home it became apparent that a doctor was needed, urgently. The year was 1856 and there were no doctors in the new village of Wyandotte. For the past two years the people had been too busy erecting a factory, public buildings, homes and businesses to give serious attention to the welfare of the sick. Sensing Captain Bolton's serious condition, members of the crew volunteered to row to Detroit for a doctor. It was difficult to find one ready and willing to travel fifteen miles to see one patient. The sailors were persistent. They felt that in times of emergencies there must be someone, somewhere, prepared to extend a humanitarian touch to a fevered brow. That man was finally found in the person of a young doctor, aged 29 years, just out of medical school—Dr. Edmund Potts Christian. He joined the crew and journeyed to Wyandotte to care for his first Wyandotte patient.⁴³ Dr. Christian made several return trips by boat before Captain Bolton was out of danger. During this medication, Captain Bolton succeeded in convincing Dr. Christian that the new town would welcome a resident doctor and that there would be boundless opportunities for the expression of his talents and services.⁴⁴

Dr. E. P. Christian moved into Wyandotte as the city's first physician in the year 1856. He had entered the University of Michigan at the age

⁴³Ironically, Captain Bolton was also one of the last patients of Dr. Christian. Two weeks before his death, he treated Captain Bolton for the grippe, commenting at the time that he, himself was a far sicker man than Captain Bolton.

⁴⁴Many people follow the belief opinionated by the newspapers that Dr. Christian came to Wyandotte through invitation of Eber Ward. This idea, readily admitted by some newspapers as conjecture, was based upon the two facts that Dr. Christian worked on the Ward boats while going to school, and the well-known characteristic of Eber Ward to select young men of promise to further his enterprises.

of 16 and was graduated as the first Detroit boy to take an A.B. degree at the institution in 1847. Since there was no medical school at the University at that time, he went to Buffalo for his professional training and received his doctor's degree in 1853. With this exceptional background for that period in history—especially the midwest—he opened an office at the Southeast corner of Biddle and Chestnut Avenues, present site of the Park View Hotel. For over forty years Wyandotters, seeking the doctor's conscientious diagnosis, went to that office on foot, oftentimes crossing a wooden-planked high bridge extending across Chestnut Street, under which flowed a creek. Those in carriages tied their horses to the hitching post.⁴⁵

This small courtly gentleman of the old school, with the gruff demeanor, who advised so sympathetically on the health conditions of the people, also bountifully shared the marks of an educated man with the community as politician, religious leader, author, and scholar until his retirement and death in 1896. With the incorporation of the city in 1867, he was elected an alderman, followed by the mayorship in 1870, and the office of city physician in 1872. For 12 years he was a member of the School Board. He was a "thorough-going American who placed patriotism above self-interest, frowning upon political chicanery." In the religious community, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church derived its power and sustained its strength through his zealous guidance. The members had only to seek out charter member Dr. Christian whenever the going became rough and he "reached his hand into his pockets as far as it would go every time." As an author he brought honor to the city by writing its first formal history and presenting the thesis at the State Historical Society's meeting in 1888. This account, entitled "Historical Associations Connected with Wyandotte and Vicinity," was received at that time as one of the best local histories ever written. A deep student of professional subjects, especially obstetrics, as well as a scholarly writer, he placed his pen on the paper for such professional subjects as "Medical Art and Its Relationship to Christian Civilization and the Popular Intelligence," "Still Born Rates and Causes," and other similar topics.

Among his pioneer friends these illustrious attributes were of small consequence. It has been of more importance to them that during the typhoid and diphtheria epidemics he kept vigil every two hours at their

⁴⁵The Christian hitching post stands today on the curb in front of the house at the northwest corner of Chestnut and First Streets, ready to incite the memories of those who wish to reminisce.

bedsides even into the grey hours of the morning, which care they believed granted them the privilege of living to witness the anniversary celebration of the city in 1954; that his conscientious regard for his patients caused him at one time in defensive grief to blame the mother for feeding a banana to a girl who died of typhoid; that in lieu of a veterinarian he amputated the leg of an injured pet dog to the everlasting joy of a boy with tears in his eyes; that during physiology lectures arranged by Miss Kate Gartner for the high school boys, in order to develop "good mental thinking" and bodily care, he broke three thermometers in self-conscious nervousness under the gaze of sharp eyes, critically watching him; that a compote dish standing on a side board in a Wyandotte home today, used to stand on the side board in the Christian home filled with fresh pop-corn each week-end for the hospitable reception of Sunday visitors. It is these small things spread upon the historic record that testify to the indelible imprint the city's first physician made not only in words or deeds but in the hearts of the people.

During the early days of the city, the doctors were the only ones equipped to take care of all the public health matters. It was necessary for them to be psychologist, dentist, surgeon, and hospital intern as well as physician. There were no hospitals and operations had to be performed on the kitchen table in the homes. Handicapped in transportation, they, too, walked the length and breadth of Wyandotte, until the horse and buggy became feasible, at all hours of the day and night to comfort and ease the sick and dying. This sharing of the hardships of the pioneer life with their patients, who were their friends and neighbors, brought a faith into the relationship between the doctor and his families that reached the spiritual pinnacle of a loyalty unto death. Dr. Honor, the present Dean of Down River Medical Profession, may learn with surprise that his professional initiation into the city in 1903 has withstood the test of such loyalty. Pioneers of the city have confided in amusement, that if, perchance, Dr. Honor came to their homes substituting for the vacationing or absence of the family physician, he was received courteously but his medicine was thrown down the kitchen sink or into the fire for fear it might kill or poison the patient. Today, members of these same pioneer families wouldn't think of entering an operating room without the security of Dr. Honor's presence walking beside their hospital cart.

Helping the doctors with their multifarious tasks were the druggists, the forerunners of the organized hospitals. In those days the doctors welcomed the druggists prescribing for the ill and bandaging the wounded. Nearly everyone of the pioneer druggists lived above his store and was

ever on the alert for the tingling of an outside night bell calling for service during any hour from midnight until dawn. Thomas' Drug Store became the first such agency to offer substitute hospital service. Mr. Thomas' job was to render first aid to the injured from the Eureka Iron and Steel Company. Later the Cahalan Drug Store carried on the same service.

Ten years after Dr. Christian began administering to the public of the city, another doctor opened an office in Wyandotte, Dr. Samuel B. Wright, a native of Ontario and a graduate of the Detroit College of Medicine. He introduced a different type of medical science, the practice of homeopathy, as opposed to the method of Dr. Christian known as allopathy. There occurred as much disagreement in the pioneer days between these two methods as there exists today between osteopathic physicians and medical physicians. In July, 1866, he was ready to receive his first patients who never ceased to beat a path to his door until the night before his death, in 1886. His home and office is known today as the Hurst residence, located on Biddle Avenue between the City Hall and the Public Library. James Hurst, in 1887, at the time of his purchase, remodeled the modest dwelling extensively. The James Hursts' twin daughter Eva was the last patient for whom he prescribed. He gained the confidence of the people as an exceptionally fine practitioner for children. Even Captain William Bolton resorted to calling Dr. Wright for the Bolton children, while remaining loyal to Dr. Christian for his wife and himself. Early in the evening of his death, Mrs. Hurst hurried to his office to report on Eva's health. He became so well acquainted with his children that he was able to prescribe from a verbal detail of their symptoms. Standing in the door with a lamp held high in his hand to guide Mrs. Hurst down the dark walk, he called to remind her that if the little twin did not improve, he would stop at the home the next day. The next morning, November 20, 1886, the "whole city stood aghast" as the sad news was conveyed from door to door, "Dr. Wright is dead!" The children of yesteryears remember that faces turned pale, and tears flowed freely for in many homes he seemed a part of the family and not a few believed that "next to the Great Physician of the soul is the Physician of the body." His friends took comfort in that "he rests from his labor and his works follow him," including his help in motivating the mineral springs activity and the development of the River Park Hotel Health Resort. For a short period he had been the hotel's resident physician.

Dr. Christian was not left alone to battle disease and death. In the

meantime, three other doctors had hung out their shingles, Dr. Theophilus J. Langlois, Dr. James Cahalan, and Dr. Walter Lambert. Each one was destined to make a pronounced impression on the life of the city.

Theophilus Langlois came to Wyandotte in 1871. He had studied long and earnestly under the guidance of Dr. Walter Lambert, Sr. of Amherstburg, the father of one of Wyandotte's future doctors. He had completed his graduate work at the Detroit College of Medicine, and had decided to settle at Wyandotte near his birthplace, the Boucher farm on Grosse Ile. It didn't take very long for the good natured, social, and intellectual Frenchman to reserve his place in the community. Within the very short time of three years he was elected Mayor of the city. Again in 1888 he was re-elected Mayor, during which period he grasped the leadership in the attempt at immunization of the community from small pox. Throughout the years his interest in small pox continued to occupy his attention and during his many years as City Physician he conscientiously labored to eradicate the disease from the city. His span of 24 years as guardian of the public health covered the longest service appointment of all the City Physicians.

Dr. Langlois also enjoyed a popularity with children and young people, perhaps enhanced by his exceptional talent for story-telling. This attribute, combined with the fact that he was a good physician, made him a favorite member of the exclusive Turtle Lake Sporting Club with a reservation near West Alpena. The membership included distinguished men from Detroit and other cities throughout Michigan. His ardent avocations were hunting and fishing. Many an impatient youngster has squirmed under the persistent stare of the illustrious moose head which hung in his office at the corner of Chestnut and Biddle Avenue, the present location of Thon Funeral Home.

In spite of his absorbing professional duties he found time to be an aggressive politician, serving on the School Board and acting as President of the Water Board besides two terms as Mayor.

Although a man of "cool judgment" and "strong mental powers" he was an easy touch for all kinds of fraternal insurance schemes in which he lost considerable money. His fraternal and gregarious instinct found better employment in active association with the Masonic Lodge, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Sons of Rest, and many other societies.

In 1926 at the age of 85 years, the versatile French doctor who never mastered the English language, passed from Wyandotte's historic scene, leaving among his numerous stories one to cheer many of his warm friends and amuse their grandchildren:

I tell you: one cold night I get a call from a wo-man in the Third Ward. She seeck with stomach ache. Wo-man in the Third Ward always seeck.

I pick up my lantern and I go. I walk all the way. I get there. She not seeck at all. I put some pills in a dish. I go away.

The next mor-neeng?—she ees seeck.

If you were a small boy or girl during the 1880's and you felt a quick tug at your braids or your cap slipped off suddenly, you would have instinctively known that Dr. James Cahalan, with a most sober expression, must be somewhere behind you. He, too, was a man endowed with a zest for living and capacity for giving and receiving a good story or joke. He could fool the most unsuspecting, even in the pursuance of his professional duties. At one time, he administered to two women at the same time during the arrival of their babies. The families lived next door to each other, and both children decided to come into this world at the same time. Dr. Cahalan attended one for a while then would run next door to look in on the other, leaving each mother to wonder where he had gone for the moment, but neither knowing that he was carrying on a dual operation.



Dr. James Cahalan

James Cahalan, the oldest son of one of Wyandotte's distinguished pioneer families, came to Wyandotte from Ireland in 1855, at the age of five years. At first he attempted to satisfy his father and mother's wishes by spending some years studying for the priesthood. Finally, he decided that he could best express his humanitarian interests through the profession of medicine. He entered McGill University and was graduated with his Doctor's degree in 1880. Upon returning to Wyandotte, he joined his brothers, Richard and John, in the opening of the well-known drug store. The doctor's office was arranged in back of the store. There one received a prescription of cheer together with a box of pills.

The doctor's humor became so contagious that at one time public opinion broke out in a rash of jollification which found expression in the following story printed in the local newspaper:

"A young doctor over 35 years, who fills his own prescriptions at his own

drug store, is a good looker, has devoted years to educating his hair to curl, is well heeled through healing others, still lives with his mother, trains with the godly, but lacks the moral courage to present his case for the kindly considerations of some one who should share his joys and soften his sorrows."

It is not known if the doctor took the note seriously, or whether with tongue-in-cheek he decided to turn the tables upon his teasers. Nevertheless, six months later, the "bells chimed merrily" and the gathering crowd was "bright and cheerful" the August morning in 1888 when Anna Melody was united in marriage to Dr. James Cahalan at St. Patrick's Church.

With Cahalan blood in his veins, there was no way he could avoid adding politics to his busy life. So it followed, that he served seven years on the local Board of Education, an appointment on the Wayne County Board of Jury Commissioners, and as a delegate to Democratic party affiliations numerous times.

During a period of six years he answered the calls and watched over public health as City Physician.

On December 11, 1903, his life's work had been completed. While a devout Catholic and a power in the councils of the Democratic party, his spirit of tolerance and broadmindness which has characterized every member of the Cahalan family from the beginning of the history of the town, left as many Protestants and Jews to grieve his absence as Catholic friends. The *Wyandotte Herald* editor summed up the general sentiment of Wyandotte in these words: "An ideal citizen, loyal churchman, a physician who guided his conduct by the highest ethics of the profession, the passing of Dr. James Cahalan is an irreparable blow to the city."

Dr. Walter Lambert's arrival in Wyandotte was formally announced in the newspaper for July 30, 1886. "Dr. Lambert, formerly of Amherstburg, has decided to locate in Wyandotte and has fitted up an office over Julius Thiede's Barber Shop on Biddle Avenue. The doctor is welcomed as a valuable acquisition to the profession."

Such an announcement was entirely in character with the doctor's dignified personality. He was a man who took his professional standing seriously. Brisk and erect in physical mannerisms, he entered Wyandotte homes exuding a self-confidence in his own ability, tempered with kindness and courtesy. His merits were recognized immediately by the most discerning so that he was not obliged to pass through tedious months of waiting for acceptance. Within three months of his arrival he had acquired many loyal friends.

Walter Lambert began his life in Amherstburg in 1863, the son of a

well-known Canadian doctor, Dr. Walter Lambert, Sr. The Detroit College of Medicine became his Alma Mater. Medicine was a definite science to Dr. Lambert who followed its advancement and progress assiduously for the benefit of his Wyandotte patients. In recognition of his professional ability he received an appointment in 1917 to the State Board of the State Sanitarium at Howell, believed to be the first such appointment from the City of Wyandotte. Within the city, he is remembered for taking a leading part in the organization of the first hospitals, the Wyandotte Sanitarium and the Emergency Hospital at Ford City. For some time he was the resident doctor at the Emergency. When the Wyandotte General Hospital was opened in 1926 he became its first Chief of Staff.



Wyandotte Sanitarium building on left, Van Alstyne Boulevard

As a citizen, he continued the tradition of the pioneer doctors and served on the School Board; covered two historic periods as Mayor, 1895, 1896, 1897, and a twentieth century term, 1916-1918; held office as City Physician, 1897, 1904, 1907; and took an avid interest in sports, mainly yachting. His passing in 1934 left a medical memory of 48 years upon the city.

The founding of the Michigan Alkali in the 1890's brought a rebirth of prosperity and growth to the city which affected every phase of the city's life, including the professional services. New names were rapidly registered as available to care for the influx of population:

Dr. Janes—1889; Dr. Bancroft—1891 (homeopathic); Dr. Napoleon T. Langlois, son of T. J. Langlois—1891; Dr. Jacob Keim—1891-1893; Dr. O. S. Williams—1893; Dr. George Maxwell (homeopathic) and Dr. Frederick P. Spragne—1896; Dr. Charles E. Reid—1898; Dr. John Rieg—1897; Dr. C. W. O'Brien—1904; Dr. W. C. Walther—1900; Dr. J. D. Singer—1900; Dr. A. L. Martin (homeopath)—1911; Dr. Edward Megges—1907; Dr. Glenn Coan—1916.

In 1893 Dr. A. C. Drouillard came to Wyandotte. He was a native of Canada and a graduate of the Detroit College of Medicine. Wyandotte attracted his attention because of the prevalence of diphtheria, a disease in which he was conscientiously interested. From 1893 until his death in 1937 he devoted a specialized attention to this serious plague, continuing his study under Dr. B. R. Shirley, at Detroit for graduate work in inoculation treatments. His service year as City Physician in 1926 was marked by a diphtheria inoculation program. In addition to this absorbing work, he found time to serve as School Board Physician and School Board member. He earned a commanding place for himself in Wyandotte's Public Health history.

Within another two years, the Detroit College of Medicine directed another young doctor to Wyandotte in 1895. Dr. C. W. McColl, a name which continues a shingle today in the same location at the corner of Chestnut and Biddle Avenues. A son, Dr. C. W. McColl, Jr., carries tradition into present-day Wyandotte. Although Dr. McColl, Sr., came into the city as a general practitioner, he made a specialty of eyes and ears. The year 1934 marked the end of his career.

The turn of the century in 1900 introduced three names which today tie the present age to its historic past: Dr. James S. McGlaughlin, Dr. A. W. Brighton, and Dr. W. H. Honor.

Dr. McGlaughlin was the father of the Dr. N. D. McGlaughlin who is at present the Commissioner of Public Health and a general practitioner. Once again traditionalism had invaded the medical profession as well as the mercantile and transportation areas. Two sons carry on in the footsteps of their fathers, Dr. C. W. McColl, Jr., and Dr. N. D. McGlaughlin.

Dr. James S. McGlaughlin had become an integral part of the city long before he decided to study medicine. He had been born in Wyandotte in 1869, the son of an Irish rolling mill man, and thereby was a definite part of Wyandotte's historic growth and development. A jewelry store business in his early life kept him in close touch with the people of the city so that he had no inhibitions regarding his success as a doctor. The year

was 1899 when he completed his study at the Detroit College of Medicine and returned to Wyandotte. Again the inherited flare for politics which seems to have infected so many pioneer professional men brought him two terms as Mayor and an appointment on the Board of Public Works.

Shortly after he opened his medical office, he took a franchise for a telephone exchange. Before his death in 1930, he had opened a drug store and branches. It is difficult to tell in which field of civic endeavor versatile James McGlaughlin should be classified, business promotor or physician.

Casual Dr. Brighton and brusque Dr. Honor have the rank today as Deans in the city's medical profession. Dr. Brighton came to Wyandotte in 1900 at the beginning of the new century. His first office was at Orchard and Biddle Avenue. For many years he has been associated with the corner of Biddle and Superior Avenues, where he also makes his home. In recognition of his long years of service, six of which were spent as City Physician, the staff of the Wyandotte General Hospital honored him in 1950 with a gold framed medical service scroll, and an honorary life membership on the staff of the hospital.

In 1953 the years had rolled by until it was time again for the Wyandotte General Hospital staff to celebrate the same 50th anniversary for Dr. Honor. Amherstburg, Ontario, and the Detroit College of Medicine again furnished Wyandotte another doctor in the person of Dr. William Honor. His first office was opened in 1903 in the First Commercial Savings Bank Building, corner of Oak and Biddle. Immediately, Dr. W. C. Lambert invited him to be one of the first resident doctors in the newly organized Emergency Hospital, located across from the north plant of the Michigan Alkali Company. The closing of this hospital, and the opening of the new Wyandotte General Hospital, a gift of the Ford family in 1926, did not divorce Dr. Honor from the Michigan Alkali service. He is still today the company's industrial physician. The opening of the General Hospital witnessed his appointment as Chief of Staff over which he has presided until 1953. During his professional years the science of medicine progressed into the development of specialized fields, and Dr. Honor decided to direct his special interest in the skill of surgery, which has won him much acclaim and recognition. In the pursuance of this specialty he has been credited with two medical discoveries, the construction of a plastic intestinal tube to relieve bowel disturbances, a project devised in cooperation with Dr. Homer Smathers, and a special type of surgery for hip fractures in which he collaborated with Dr. Fred Mailbauer. Not to be overlooked is his distinguished service on the

medical field of honor during World War I. There the touch of his skillful hands meant the difference between life and death to many soldiers. For his outstanding contributions the University of Paris awarded him the Order of the Palmes, rarely conferred upon Americans. The Distinguished Service Medal was granted to him by the United States.

Although Dr. Honor deserves to enjoy some years in retirement, it is inconceivable that the citizens of Wyandotte could permit the absence of his skill from their health problems.

From the opening of the twentieth century to the present time, the roster of physicians has been accelerated so that there is scarcely a specialized field or type of medical practice that is not represented in Wyandotte. In the medical specialists field the city benefits from services in gynecology, pediatrics, surgery, skin, kidneys, eye, ear, nose, and throat.

During the late thirties and the war years of World War II, countless young doctors sought Wyandotte offices in which to launch their careers. Time and the history books of tomorrow will judge and record their progresses and contributions. This is especially true in the medical field of osteopathic physicians, who have been received with much more favor and success than the pioneer homeopathic physicians.

The first osteopathic doctor was Dr. Robert Ashley. He came to Wyandotte and established an office in the Armstrong Clothing Store Building in 1920. In the same manner as the pioneer allopaths he entered wholeheartedly into civic activities which have contributed to the community development. His record stands as follows:

"During World War I he served in the U. S. Navy. He was commander of the American Legion in Wyandotte, 1920-21. His thirty-some years as a service officer of the American Legion in Michigan makes him the oldest in years of service. He is an Honorary Officer of the Canadian Legion. Shortly after his arrival in Wyandotte, Dr. Ashley organized the American Legion Boat Club, which later became the Wyandotte Boat Club.

"For the past 15 years, from 1939-1954, he has served as Examining Physician for the Civil Service Commission (Police & Fire Departments). He served on the Wyandotte Police Commission 1936-1939; on the Wayne County Jury Commission 1934-1937; on the State Board of Trustees for the Michigan State Psychiatric Hospital at Ann Arbor 1932-1935; on the Michigan State Unemployment Compensation Commission from 1938 to the present and as its chairman during World War II; as a member of the Michigan State Welfare and Relief Study Commission 1936-1939."

During the ensuing years from 1920 to the present time, the number of osteopathic doctors has increased to such an extent that the establishment of a hospital became feasible in 1944, in Trenton, Michigan. In 1954 there were listed 11 osteopathic physicians and surgeons in the city.

Chiropractic services became available for the first time in 1913 with Drs. Robert and Sadie Dolsen. They established "an enviable reputation" during the thirty years of their professional activities in Wyandotte. Dr. Robert Dolsen passed away in 1944.

The O'Dell clinic on Fort Street has dominated this medical practice since the opening of the new building in 1949. Dr. C. W. O'Dell came to Wyandotte in 1937. In the National Chiropractors' Association he has received considerable recognition for his research work in the science of chiropractic care. His data was compiled in a book entitled "Field Research Data" which has been widely used by insurance firms and industrial concerns, making decisions on the use of chiropractic care in certain designated cases.

During the first thirty years of the city's life, it was necessary for the family doctor to pull the aching tooth. The specialty of dentistry was an unknown service.

Out of the memories of the pioneers and from the meager printed matter upon the subject it would seem that Dr. F. S. Utter might have been the first dentist to have opened an office and practice in Wyandotte.⁴⁶ A house on the east side of Biddle Avenue between Chestnut and Oak Streets, next door to the Wayman home, was renovated for the office and Dr. Utter opened his door for his first patient on October 22, 1886. He stayed four years. When he left in 1889 Dr. A. Richardson, a graduate of the University of Michigan, moved into an office over E. N. Clark's Hardware (Lynch and Sullivan's today). He advertised that "he was prepared to do all kinds of dental work, mechanical and operating." Later he built a house and a separate office building in front on the second lot from the northeast corner of Biddle and Oak Streets. During this same year Dr. Elliott came from Detroit weekly to receive patients at the Arlington Hotel. In 1891 Dr. Elliott moved into a new office on the east side of Biddle Avenue between Chestnut and Oak, near the present location of Dr. D. C. Groff's office. Traditionally the city's pioneer dentists have hugged this same location between the two city blocks from Elm to Chestnut Streets. In 1895 Dr. Pascal P. Nelson started an

⁴⁶Richard H. Sutliff has been recorded in one source as having been in Wyandotte one year, 1881.

office in the First Commercial and Savings Bank Building, southeast corner of Oak Street and Biddle Avenue, moving to Dr. Richardson's former office eventually.

The year 1895 also marked the opening of the office of Dr. Norman G. Bowbeer, who became the first dentist in the city to have completed fifty years of service before his death in 1948. It was fifty years of unexcelled workmanship. When he arrived in Wyandotte as a graduate of the University of Maryland to open an office over Bigler's Meat Shop in



Dr. Norman Bowbeer's Dental Office built on the west side of Biddle Avenue between Chestnut and Oak, 1896.

the west side of Biddle Avenue between Oak and Elm streets, he brought with him, as encouragement for his professional introduction, a gold medal awarded at the University for "the best continuous gum set." The medal seems to have brought him luck for the very first set of teeth he made in his Wyandotte office was still being worn in good condition by a woman in 1946, exactly fifty years later. During his years of experience he developed an interest in dental work for children and was one of the pioneers in believing that the care of the first teeth of children was important, including the use of gold fillings. The theory

was approved by the National Dental Association and in 1912 he was invited to demonstrate his theory in a clinic at the National Dentists' convention in Cleveland. Children learned to enjoy, rather than endure, the dentist's chair under Dr. Bowbeer's guidance. Many of these children were inspired to select dentistry as their profession. Some of the followers in Detroit and Wyandotte considered Dr. Bowbeer "the father" of their vocational choice and success. Dr. Bowbeer changed the location of his office in 1896 to the First Commercial and Savings Bank Building, corner of Biddle Avenue and Oak Streets. Finally he erected his own office building in 1898 on the west side of Biddle Avenue between Chestnut and Oak Streets. Here is noted the invasion of traditionalism in the profession of dentistry in Wyandotte. A son, Norman N. Bowbeer, joined his father in the practice in this historic family building in 1932 after serving a summer with Couzens Children's Dental Fund in northern Michigan. When the pressures from adjacent businesses began to crowd the pioneer frame structure, Dr. Norman N. Bowbeer found it to his advantage to erect a new, modern clinic in 1952 at 2107 Oak Street where the Bowbeer name may still be carried on into a historic future.

Another pioneer dentist's name is likewise carried through to the year 1954 by a second generation son, Dr. D. C. Groff, who occupies his father's building on the east side of Biddle Avenue between Oak and Chestnut Streets. Dr. Otto S. Groff, the father, started his practice in Wyandotte in 1900 and continued until his sudden death in an automobile accident in 1947. His first location was the traditional First Commercial and Savings Bank building. In 1902 he moved to the opposite corner of Biddle Avenue in the old frame office structure with a house in the rear built by Dr. A. Richardson. During the years 1929-1934 the Casper building across the road on the west side of Biddle Avenue served as his office until the completion of the present modern brick structure in 1934. His son, Dr. D. C. Groff, enrolled his name in the historic partnership in 1933.

The last names to be found in the pioneer list of dentists are Dr. Warren G. McNab, 1902-1930; Dr. E. L. Roach, 1902-1951, and Dr. H. H. Coomer, 1911-1939.

There is no need for anyone in Wyandotte to suffer from lack of dental care in this modern period since dentists are located conveniently to every block and highway in the city.

Although the veterinarian may not be considered in the minds of

many as a member of the dignified medical or dental professions, he nevertheless functions well within the classification of public health. Meat inspections through public health departments in larger cities and in the U. S. Army are the concern of the veterinarian. What family might there be in Wyandotte possessed with the love of pets who would wish to dispute the importance of the doctor who stands faithfully by to administer to the comfort of the creatures who seem like members of the family! Dr. Christian learned that importance late in the 1880's, after Dr. Fred Schreffer, a veterinarian surgeon from 1877-1883, left the city.

In 1912, Dr. Ezra J. Walters announced he was ready to relieve the medical doctors of a repetition of Dr. Christian's performance. From that date the animal citizenry have yelped and meowed their grateful appreciation. With no abatement, proud Wyandotters still carry their lovable pets to Walter's Dog and Cat Hospital at 3034 Second Street where another son, Dr. E. D. Walters, familiarly known as "Doug," proves that his father's work was not finished with his death in 1948.

There have been, from the beginning of time, historical cycles of diseases, types which have been conditioned by environmental factors and brought under control by the study and determination of doctors and medical technicians.

The city's pioneer physicians found themselves faced with problems of illnesses as baffling and stubborn to cure as there are today in the classifications of the heart, cancer, and nerves. Fevers, such as malaria, cholera, ague and la grippe, brought down many hardy pioneers to their beds and decimated the population. These diseases were aggravated by the insect-infested swamp and wooded lands or were brought in on European boats carrying immigrants. Damp, cold and poorly heated homes also increased the likelihood of infection. It was the cholera epidemic in Detroit which determined Michael Boucher's arrival in Wyandotte to build the first house and Captain William Bolton's strange fever brought the first city physician, Dr. Edmund P. Christian.

Typhoid fever, diphtheria, small pox and tuberculosis were the other diseases which worried the people and dominated the physicians' attention in the 19th century and the first twenty-five years of the twentieth.

With milk furnished unpasteurized from the cow in every stable and unfiltered water coming from the polluted Detroit River, many newcomers to the city became the prey to the dreaded typhoid. Native

Wyandotters eventually developed an immunity for the disease, but upon the unfortunate victims typhoid left its everlasting marks.

In 1881, 40 cases of typhoid were noted. Ten years later in 1890 another epidemic broke forth and it was attributed to "the poison lurking in the milk." At the turn of the century, people were "dying like flies" at the old Emergency Hospital. At that time an ordinance was passed making it unlawful to spit on the sidewalk. In 1912 a public health ordinance was placed in effect regulating all health dangers such as disposal of dead animals, outhouses, slaughtering, and general cleanliness of the streets as a disease preventive. After the typhoid outbreak in 1916 filtration of the water was considered, with plans drawn for a filtration plant in 1918.

In the treatment of typhoid, starvation was tried which caused more deaths than the disease itself. After this mistake was realized, a liquid diet was permitted.

Diphtheria epidemics were not pronounced. In Wyandotte it was observed that diphtheria seemed to follow a family pattern with certain families having a case every year. By 1894 inoculation had been developed and those who were willing were given the benefit of this service in 1903. However, this program was received in Wyandotte with the same fear as the polio experiments in the state today. Wyandotters were reluctant to consent to such treatment. They rather took the chances of contracting the disease, and practiced saving the lives with such home devised treatments as filling a clay pipe with hot coals over which was poured a pine tar. The inhalation of the creosin broke the deadly phlegm. In 1926, under Commissioner of Health and Sanitation, Dr. A. C. Drouillard, a school program of toxin and anti-toxin inoculation was carried through successfully.

Tuberculosis was so baffling that no particular treatment seemed to be applied. It was common for people to use patent medicines in these cases. Sometimes, the patent medicine would relieve the cough and the momentary improvement would mislead the patient into believing he was progressing toward a cure. In any event, it was a matter of waiting until the inevitable end.

Small pox was not permitted to reach epidemic stages in Wyandotte. A suspicion of small pox was a criminal alarm. Immediately an outside shelter or guard house was erected in the victim's yard. The unemployed or transients were assigned guard duty, to watch the home and prevent anyone's leaving the grounds. Once a guard house had been planted on the yard, the family was disgraced for years, condemned by

a whispered stigma. There are recorded accounts of victims of temporary residency being "run out of town." One doctor in the city was handicapped in treating the disease; his wife would not permit him to come home if he visited an infected person. This physician was forced to turn all calls over to a colleague whose wife was more understanding. The city provided the care for these imprisoned families. The bills for clothing and food presented at the council meetings often times aroused heated discussions and protests since there were always those who padded their expense accounts whenever possible. One such bill which the county auditors objected to paying reads as follows:

"... \$63 for wages lost, and \$91.60 for articles destroyed. Other items were \$34.25 for pants, shirts, underwear, shirt waists, two ladies' skirts at \$7 each, children's dresses and window shades. The physicians bills totaled \$385, there was a \$70 bill for nursing, and watchmen's fees amounted to \$101.75. The dry goods bill was \$46.98, the grocery bill \$78.39. The supplies included steaks, berries, lemons, eggs, onions, spinach, rice, candy, ice, pineapple, beans, coffee, tea, cakes, vanilla, stove polish, catsup, fish, asparagus, sauces, prunes, tomatoes, chops, roasts, beets, pickles, cabbage, tobacco, gelatine, ham, cocoanut, mustard, salmon and sardines."

After an outbreak of the disease in the 1900's the council decided to do away with the primitive shanties and ordered them stored away in March, 1903, "for future use." In spite of vaccination, procedures which started as early as 1889 in the schools by council order continued unabated in Wyandotte as late as 1913 when Dr. T. J. Langlois, city physician, reported 112 cases of diseases dangerous to the public health in January and February with small pox leading by 74 cases.

Burials, both legitimate and illegitimate, for small-pox victims were grim affairs. Bodies were enclosed in zinc lined boxes filled with quick lime and carted off in stark loneliness under cover of night. Illegitimate burials, those made by families who had not complied with the strict regulations regarding the treatment of small pox, were made in secret because of fear of consequences—and woe be to the lawbreaker who was caught participating in such burials. He was seized and held for criminal prosecution; the wagon conveying the coffin and also the horse drawing it were destroyed.

In death from diphtheria, a decent Christian burial was permitted but under extreme caution. The deceased was placed upon exhibition in front of windows in the homes for viewing by friends. The funeral was held privately, however. The glass windows were believed to be a protection to friends from any possibility of contracting the disease.

Within the contemporary period of vaccines, filtered water, and pasteurized milk, diphtheria and typhoid are no longer threats. Tuberculosis is still vigilantly watched through a program of X-rays sponsored by the county and local health departments. Today it is the disease of poliomyelitis which has been worrying the citizens and concerning the doctors and health departments. The serious polio epidemics of the 1930's have made history in Wyandotte, by motivating the inception of two health ordinances and the installation of a therapy tank in the Wyandotte General Hospital. Under the administration of Dr. Earl H. Engel, Commissioner of Public Health, an ordinance was passed in 1935, which provided for the regulation of annual physical examination for all persons handling open and exposed food or drinks in the City of Wyandotte, and the ordinance in 1938 which required the licensing of all milk dealers on the basis of their compliance with rules governing purity and quality of milk, containers, and the methods of distribution.

The Hibbard-Currence therapy tank was purchased in 1938 from funds raised by means of the annual presidential parties and by donations from city service clubs. The tank was the first of its kind to be installed in the United States west of New York City.

Later in 1951 the Veterans of Foreign Wars presented a Mullikin Iron Lung to the local Fire Department for use of the citizens of Wyandotte free of charge. Some of the money necessary for the purchase was raised through exhibition contributions of the people.

During the pioneer period when doctors were trying so valiantly to combat disease scientifically and intelligently, they were faced with competition from the medicine showmen who made periodical visits to the city selling patent medicines and herbs. The common meeting ground was the vacant corner of Sycamore and Biddle, present location of Kresge's Five and Ten Cent Store. It was here that the Sagawa Indians with their Kick-a-poo salve would gather to entertain the people. They were real Indians and capable of putting on a good show. Their remedy, if not scientifically approved, at least did not harm the citizens. The city officials were ever on the alert to recognize the faker and protect the public. One such faker gave up in disgust when he attempted "to work" Wyandotte after pleading with the city clerk, Charles Genthe, for the return of his license. The clerk "very properly failed to disgorge."

The administration of public health matters from 1872 to 1926 has been the definite concern of the city physicians, who in turn were appointed by the city council. In 1926, when the government charter was changed to the councilmanic form, two departments were established to

direct all health matters within the city. The first has been designated by the title, Department of Public Health and Sanitation.

The underlying purpose of this department is to coordinate all health functions in the community including Plumbing and Sanitation divisions of the Engineering Department. The work includes immunization programs, X-ray surveys, and inspection of food establishments.

One of the important projects in health protection recently undertaken by the health department has been the elimination of rodents. Dr. A. W. Brighton, Commissioner of Health and Sanitation in 1945, sounded the keynote of this campaign stating that "rats can be driven out of Wyandotte if every householder, store building owner, and restaurant proprietor co-operates by eliminating rats on his premises." Educational literature and bulletins were published and handbills distributed to the population through the electric light bills. The literature listed pointers for elimination. The effectiveness of the program was intensified in 1948 when a citizens' committee was appointed to help direct activities to a successful culmination of fact. The organization arrayed itself for the battle—"Build 'Em Out, Starve 'Em Out, and Trap and Kill Them."

The list of officials who have presided over the health and welfare of the city for the past one hundred years have been:

City Physicians

1872-1874	Dr. E. P. Christian
1875-1880	Dr. T. J. Langlois
1881-1882	Dr. James Cahalan
1885	Dr. E. P. Christian
1886	Dr. T. J. Langlois
1889-1893	Dr. James Cahalan
1894	Dr. T. J. Langlois
1895-1898	Dr. N. T. Langlois
1899	Dr. W. C. Lambert
1900	Dr. N. T. Langlois
1901-1903	Dr. A. W. Brighton
1904	Dr. W. C. Lambert
1905-1906	Dr. T. J. Langlois
1907	Dr. W. C. Lambert
1908-1909	Dr. Charles McColl
1910-1925	Dr. T. J. Langlois

Commissioners of Health and Sanitation

1926	Dr. A. C. Drouillard
1928-1931	Dr. A. P. Schultz
1932	Dr. A. S. Pasternacki
1933-1939	Dr. E. H. Engel
1940-1941	Dr. N. D. McGlaughlin
1942-1945	Dr. A. W. Brighton
1946-1954	Dr. N. D. McGlaughlin

The second departmental division was established as The Department of Public Welfare. The duties of this department are to supervise the municipal hospital and provide for relief work.

Since the Wyandotte General Hospital came into existence, the same year of the organization of the welfare department, its chief duty has been the administration of this municipal hospital. The commission has selected the administrators and established over-all policies affecting the daily operation of the hospital. They have also been responsible for providing medicinal aid to residents who are financially distressed.

The steps leading to the present municipal hospital started back in the drug store days with Thomas' first aid services. Whenever it became necessary to perform an operation or a patient's condition required extensive treatment they were always taken to a Detroit hospital. However, in 1895 the emergency condition of appendicitis necessitated that the first operation of this kind be performed in the city on Frank Caspers by Dr. Wayman from Detroit and Drs. Cahalan and Lambert. Detroit was too distant.

The year 1899 marks the opening of the first hospital. It was called the Wyandotte Sanitarium. Dr. Charles S. Reid of Detroit rented the Schuffert Building on the river side of Front Street (Van Alstyne) between Oak and Chestnut. The introduction of this hospital attracted Dr. George P. MacNichol. Drs. Lambert, Langlois, McGlaughlin, McColl, Rieg, Drouillard, and Dr. Holden of Trenton who had plans of attempting the organization of an Emergency Hospital to take care of the frequent accidents in Wyandotte factories.

During the first few months of the formulation of the plans the doctors joined Dr. Reid at the Sanitarium. The plan was advertised as follows:

"Anyone of the workmen of the different factories who is a subscriber of 10 cents per month to the hospital fund, who should meet with an accident and be injured, would be sent to the hospital if he desired and there be treated by his family physician and the general staff who would be on duty at the



First Emergency Hospital, located near the north plant of Michigan Alkali Company

hour he was injured. After having been treated he would be given a bed in the hospital, have trained nurses to wait upon him, and be fed. All this to be free, but he must pay his family physician and consultants himself for taking care of him. If the injured party would prefer to be taken home after having his wounds dressed, he has the privilege of doing so."

President W. H. Denman of the First Commercial and Savings Bank was placed at the head of the committee to solicit subscriptions from business men and others. A ladies' group was organized to "aid in moral and financial support."

During the first stages of the campaign 340 working men signed agreements to contribute 10 cents a month toward the support of an Emergency Hospital. It became necessary to secure 200 more signatures to assure its success. The second drive increased the rate to 50 cents per month which was to include the doctor bill as well as hospital care.

The Ladies' Aid group went into action with receptions and donation parties at which functions musical entertainment was provided and cake and ice cream served. The price of admission was a useful article such as a sheet, a pair of pillow cases, a rubber sheet, triple screen, towel, brush, comb, set of dishes and money.

In September 1900, Dr. Reid and the group of local physicians severed their co-operative enterprise. Dr. George MacNichol left for Toledo, and Drs. Lambert and Langlois took complete charge of the Emergency Hospital in co-operation with the Michigan Alkali Company. A new location was selected in the Peter Labadie house just north of the J. B. Ford Company's office. A competent nurse was hired to be in charge. Dr. Reid continued alone in the Wyandotte Sanitarium. It would seem that for a while the location of the Sanitarium remained the same on Front Street.

In November, 1900, the newspaper stated that the Sanitarium had moved over Girardin's grocery on Biddle Avenue between Oak and Elm Streets.

The Emergency Hospital continued as the only one in town until 1915 when the John F. Eilbert Memorial Hospital came into existence.

This institution was the outgrowth of a desire on the part of Mrs. Fred Ginzel to establish a lasting memorial to her deceased son, John F. Eilbert. When Mrs. Ginzel announced to the city commission her desire to donate her expansive home on Elm for public purposes, she stipulated that it should be used for either a hospital or a library. Since the library need had already been provided for in the new Carnegie Building, the city accepted the offer for the first hospital to be established under muni-



Wyandotte General Hospital

cipal auspices, with the rider that in the event the city ceased to use the building, it would revert to the original estate.

Carl F. Schroeder, Commissioner of Streets, Sewers and Public Property, was placed in charge of converting the home into a public building. A board of Directors was appointed to assist in the reconstruction program and to govern the operations of the hospital. The Board was composed of Mrs. J. S. Van Alstyne, President; Mrs. Fred Ginzel, Vice-president; Joseph J. Hoersch, Secretary; and members M. W. Lacy and Miss Ella Keveney.

A program of hospital benefits, showers, entertainments were instituted for aiding the furnishings of the hospital. The list of donations included the name of nearly every citizen and organization in Wyandotte with the gifts ranging from 50 cents to a bushel of onions.

As Wyandotte continued to grow the hospitals became inadequate to care for the demands. The J. B. Ford family took the situation in hand and donated the Wyandotte General Hospital in 1926. The Emergency Hospital at that time ceased to function and the John F. Eilbert Memorial Hospital was returned to the Ginzel estate. In 1938, the heirs of Mary J. Ginzel gave the old hospital to the I.O.O.F. for a lodge building (with a free and clear title) to be named in honor of Mary J. Ginzel.

The ceremony of formally presenting the Wyandotte General Hospital to the city occurred June 25, 1926. J. B. Ford, grandson of Captain J. B. Ford in whose memory the hospital was given made the presentation. Mr. Ford stressed the fact that "that gift was tied with no strings. Title is absolute in the City of Wyandotte. Should the building and grounds at any time cease to be used for hospital purposes the property will still be the city's to use as it sees fit."

The hospital formally opened its career of mercy February 23, 1926. The patients from the John F. Eilbert Memorial Hospital were taken to the new hospital in an ambulance, and four or five operations were performed during the day. Patients from the Emergency Hospital were removed February 27, 1926.

In the governing organization, the first appointed professional staff included Chief of Staff, Dr. W. C. Lambert; Vice-Chief, Dr. Marlin A. Coan; Treasurer, Dr. C. E. McColl; Secretary, Dr. Joseph Knapp; Executive Board, Dr. N. T. Langlois, Dr. P. L. Pound, Dr. F. J. Schulz; all the doctors of good standing in the city were to be members of the staff.

The first Board of Commissioners were those members who had been holding office under city ordinance for the John F. Eilbert Memorial

Hospital, and three new members: M. W. Lacy, president; C. W. Nixon, secretary; Dr. H. N. Torray; Dr. W. C. Lambert; John C. Cahalan; George Moore; Miss Mae Girardin; and Mrs. E. L. Roach.

The Superintendents have been Dr. Williamson of Chicago, 1926-1927; Miss Ruth Brown, Chicago, 1927-1937; Charles E. Findlay, Grand Rapids, 1937-1947; Paul Cushing, El Paso, Texas, 1947-1948; Ray von Steinen, Detroit, 1948-1951; F. G. Whelply, Evanston, Illinois, 1951.

The years have witnessed many expansion features since 1926: the construction of the nurses' home in 1931, group hospitalization plan for the area in 1939, home town veterans' care in 1946. In 1949 the unusual feature of Hospital Beauty Service, the first of its kind in the state of Michigan, was introduced by Mr. and Mrs. Alex Juhasz. Detroit followed the plan several months after it had proven successful in Wyandotte. During centennial celebration week, July 4-10, 1954, the dirt was turned for an extensive construction program which will enlarge and increase the facilities to meet the most modern requirements.

Since 1944 hospital services have been augmented in the area by the establishment of the Riverside Osteopathic Hospital, at Trenton, Michigan. This hospital was made possible through the interest of practically every osteopathic physician and surgeon in the Down River area, who donated personally \$1,000 each toward the total fund required for payment on the property, furnishings, and equipment. The founding members were names as follows: Dr. William Costello, Chairman; Dr. W. C. Andreen, Dr. Robert Ashley, Dr. F. A. Clark, Dr. W. A. Cramer, Dr. Vera Cornell, Dr. V. H. Dierdorff, Dr. Lionel H. Gatien, Dr. Victor L. Graham, Dr. Anton Kani, Dr. R. C. Kistler, Dr. R. P. Ogden, Dr. Frank W. Paul, Dr. C. P. Potter, Dr. F. R. Renier, Dr. L. P. St. Amant, Dr. John Secor, Dr. Harry Taylor, Dr. W. S. Willma, Dr. Betty Wilson.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Church, a show place on the river, in Trenton, Michigan, was purchased in August, 1943, for conversion into a hospital. It was planned with the purpose "to serve human needs, and not engage in the making of money" and as a division of the Detroit Osteopathic Hospital, a non-profit parent institution. The dedication took place Sunday, July 9, 1944, with former Governor Wilbur M. Brucker presiding. The open house which followed revealed 48 beds and bassinets, a department of surgery, obstetrics, proctology, ear, eye, nose, and throat, and clinical laboratory, anesthesia, and radiology. Cecil M. Snow of Detroit was appointed the first superintendent.

This hospital is operated as a non-profit institution and any income over and above expenses is returned to the general fund. This money

has been used to construct a \$750,000 addition to the original structure. The Riverside Osteopathic Hospital stands today as witness to the successful contributions of the osteopathic medical field in this area.

Immeasurably tied up with hospital service and equipment is the ambulance. The value of such a vehicle in the life of the city is determined often times by its absence. This fact was forcefully brought to the city's attention early in 1952 when the two funeral homes, Thon and Nixon, decided that financially they could no longer maintain such an accommodation for the public. Faced with such a threat to public health and safety, the council laid aside all other public matters on the council agenda in order to solve this serious situation. Westgate Automobile Service came to the rescue by assuming sole responsibility for hospital runs and maintenance of city ambulances.

The first statement in Wyandotte lore regarding an ambulance had been Dolly Haven's description of the new ambulance given by Edward Ford to the Emergency Hospital in September, 1899. Commenting with an opening statement "that it is a beauty" he continued:

"... The ambulance was built by the Studebaker Bros. Company and is equipped with all the conveniences for hospital service. It is provided with rubber tires, has a willow-work cot, with rubber covers for the mattress, folding seats on side for attendants, etc. The exterior is beautifully finished. The ambulance, which cost \$600, is the gift of Edward Ford. There is nothing to equal it in Detroit."

In 1915 another ambulance was purchased through a donation campaign. This was operated through the police department for accidents largely. The vehicle was practical without pretensions of comfort.

When Ralph Nixon started in business for himself in 1923, one of his distinctive new features was the addition of a perfectly designed invalid car, the first of its kind in town and first of its kind to be in operation between Detroit and Monroe. It was built strictly for comfort and efficiency in the handling of patients. There were some in the town who thought it was too comfortable and might be used for bearing the dead, a thought repellant to 19th century thinking citizens. However, wise councilmen, grasping the vision of progress and also being intelligent to the fact that in the American way of life, private possessions, property, and man's own rights in conducting his business are his heritages of freedom,⁴⁷ disregarded the objections of the petitioners. Besides, there was no need for such fearful thinking since William Pardo

⁴⁷Decision as rendered by City Attorney, W. Leo Cahalan.

had initiated the first automobile hearse during World War I. This was made up of the body of a carriage hearse mounted on a Cadillac chassis. The hearse was rented to the funeral directors.

This vehicle also met with opposition in its first inception. "Why should our beloveds be rushed to their final resting places? The distances to the two local cemeteries are short enough to use a horse drawn vehicle," reasoned the traditional Wyandotter.

The first and most historic cemetery, Oakwood, is located on the edge of the former city limits at Northline. The land was set aside by the Clark family for a burial place in the 1850's. Since the first burial, there has never been any formal organization of control, the matter of care being in the hands of the individual lot owners. Consequently, the beautiful wooded and peaceful resting place for the city's deceased has incited agitated considerations regarding its care from the day of its founding. As early as 1880, editorial comment broke forth with the sentiments:

"What a pity that the cemetery at the north end of the city, we have not learned its name, should be so neglected. Situated as it is on the banks of the river in a beautiful grove, nature had done all she could to constitute it a lovely spot and man has done but very little to improve its appearance. Someone was wise in selecting the spot for a cemetery and it would be a mark of equal wisdom to go on and improve it."

Apparently no one took the admonition seriously, for in 1886 it was noted "that the old city cemetery, now overrun with shrubbery and weeds and the wooden fence enclosing the graves having fallen, and the grounds of the whole plot present none of the attraction of vegetation and monumental decorations common to burial grounds."

In 1892 all persons owning lots in Oakwood were requested to attend a meeting in the city council chambers for the purpose of devising ways and means to place the cemetery grounds in better condition and to build a new fence.

About this time also, ghouls took advantage of the indifference and many bodies were stolen, supposedly for medical schools.

Adding to its historic significance, was the opinion of a lady riding through in a street car in the 1890's, who thought it was a private cemetery in which the Michigan Alkali Company buried their factory accident victims.

Again in 1948 the cry for respect was expressed through the columns of the *Wyandotte Tribune* newspaper. As a result, the Oakwood

Cemetery Association was formed, chairmaned by Fred Classon. The purpose of the group was to secure more active participation by the heirs of the deceased in caring for the lots. The group also made appeals to the city council for city participation in keeping the cemetery in good condition.

In spite of high weeds, bushes, snakes, and industrial encroachments, the oldest cemetery in town has maintained its everlasting purpose. To the historical minded it is the monument of remembrances linking the past and its heritage to the present and its future.

Without the efforts and character of these whose only reminder is a crumbled headstone, there would not have been a Wyandotte City to have celebrated a centennial year.

Names on the headstones speak of men and women who walked tall, straight, and vigorously on muddy streets, and spoke in strength and wisdom so that their children and the grandchildren to come might have the enjoyment of the fuller life in a prosperous industrial empire.

In this cemetery lie Captain William Bolton, who refused to buy a lot elsewhere since he couldn't think of lying away from the water; two Mayors, James Keusch, whose term saw the building of the first city hall, and Horace Ocobock, who was likewise a famous oarsman; Robert Briggs, the first City Attorney, and courier of the first city charter at Lansing, and his wife Nellie, the first city librarian; Frank Karth, the tinsmith; Oliver D. Hibbard, a postmaster, proprietor of men's clothing store, and Presbyterian minister; Charles Roll, the veteran cab driver; Christian Krieger, one of the first city officials; Peter Larrabe, the owner and driver of the first stage coach; John J. Liddle, alderman; May Christian, 28-year-old daughter of the first city physician; A. Longtin, harness maker and carpenter; John Coop, businessman; James Headman, city clerk for 25 years; George Bessey, charter member of the I.O.O.F. Lodge and rolling mill man; John Roehrig, engineer at the shipyards; Henry Asbahr, first charter committee member; and other familiar first settlers' names.

It is a cemetery monumental to those who fought the good fight in Wyandotte.

The establishment of the second historic cemetery in the city was a memorable occasion on August 20, 1865. The lot of 9 acres on North-line at Ninth was donated as a cemetery for Catholic families and named Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery, commonly known as Mount Carmel. The Rt. Rev. Peter Paul Lefevere arrived in the

city for the dedication which comprised the most splendid procession that had ever been witnessed in the village. Preceding His Grace in a coach were acolytes, cope bearers, canopy bearers, cross and censor and holy water bearers. Walking before the Bishop's carriage were girls dressed in various emblematic costumes strewing flowers on all sides. Bringing up the rear of the procession were flag bearers, representing each country: American, Joseph Godell; German, John Bittorf; Irish, Patrick Beaty; French, John Debo; English, Charles Partridge; Polish, John Coskus; Belgium, Charles Seurinck.

Initiated with such respect, the cemetery has been continued in the same heritage. The records are kept at St. Joseph's Church and the general supervision and control have been vested in the resident pastor of the same church.

Resting from their earthly labors in this cemetery are many families whose names have meant much in the growth and development of the city: Michael Boucher, the builder of the first house in Wyandotte, and his father, a member of John Jacob Astor's fur enterprise; four mayors, John Bittorf, who was also the first bridegroom in town and the first meat dealer; Henry Roehrig, also a businessman and postmaster; Michael Ganley, businessman; and Louis Brohl, businessman; his father, Frank Brohl, the first baker and one of the first city treasurers; George Giasson, fire chief, and early French settler; George Marx, a brewery manufacturer; and Joseph Gartner, businessman; James Cahill, politician; John McNerney, druggist, insurance agent, and postmaster; John F. W. Hoersch, the builder of the first brick building in town; members of the Bigler family, meat dealers; John Ginzel, businessman; three beloved priests, Rev. Peter C. Ryan, Rev. James H. Hally, Rev. Joseph Roeper; Frank Caspers, fur dealer; Louis Mehlhose, rolling mill man; Matthew Kasper, a first baker; Dr. Edward Megges, physician; Captain John DeSana, veteran sailor; all members of Cahalan family including John C. the druggist and Dr. James. Other well-known pioneers' names are: Aber, Affholter, Fury, Girardin, Goodwin, Kaul, Loeffler, McCloy, Mauren, Pendergast, Rushlow, Sieg, Welsch, Delo, Delaney, Labadie, Melody, Longtin, DeLislie, Brandt, Hebda, Mahalak, Scholerman, Weatherwax, Otto, Loselle, Gee, Thiede, Reaume, Gass, Keveney, Cramer, Heide, Dolan, LeBar, Stoddard, Perry, Drouillard, Groh, Payette, Solo, Steffes, Loeckner, Zeller, and George.

Since the cemetery reached its capacity for lot owners early in the twentieth century, it may be concluded that nearly every name on Mount Carmel headstones represents heritages in the story of Wyandotte.

In 1914 in recognition of the demand for a modern cemetery for the city, a company was organized to promote the enterprise. A tract of 162 acres on Sibley Road near Trenton was purchased and developed. It was dedicated on Memorial Day 1915 and named Ferndale.

Over the years, two Detroit cemeteries, Woodmere and Woodlawn, and West Memorial on Eureka Road have been carrying other historic Wyandotte names on their headstones.

Names of the history makers of today will be found by historical recorders of tomorrow in Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery near Flat Rock, Michigan.

CHAPTER 6

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

"The ideal government is that which leaves the individual the largest liberty consistent with the public good. . . . A government too paternal in its character and that furnishes the citizen with that which his own intelligent energy should supply, seems to indicate either incompetency in the individual or that he has not arrived at years of discretion and can rarely enure to the real benefit of his community. . . . Competency, honesty and faithfulness should be the '*sine qua non*' with all officials from the highest to the lowest. Economy (I mean judicious expenditure, not niggardly meanness) and getting in all public matters a dollar's worth for a dollar, should be the cardinal principle of the administration of our municipal government, and every officer held to a strict account."

John S. Van Alstyne
(First Mayor of Wyandotte)
"Reminiscences of Early Times in
Wyandotte"
1899

APRIL 8, 1867, was an eventful day in the history of Wyandotte, for on that date the Common Council of the new city held its first meeting under the alderman's form of government with a mayor and six councilmen. This constituted a break from governmental ties with Ecorse, which to the independent Wyandotter so far from voting precincts in Ecorse, meant government without representation. Since 1854 the long awaited event of becoming a city was realized with the filing of the incorporation papers in December, 1866. The action of approval was delayed until March 5, 1867, because the legislature had recessed. Attorney Robert V. Briggs acted as courier of this momentous paper. Immediately upon receipt of the incorporation acceptance, political party leaders arranged for nominations for the charter election. The following slates were announced:

Office	Republican	Democratic
Mayor	John S. Van Alstyne	John F. W. Hoersch
Recorder	Peter Lacy	Bartholomew Russell
Marshal	H. W. Pardo	Thomas Jewell

Office	Republican	Democratic
Treasurer	John F. W. Thon	James Cahill
Justices of the Peace	R. V. Briggs	Leander Ferguson
	John A. Sanger	Antoine Meloche
	Alex Stewart	Charles Genthe
School Inspectors	Sylvester Pray	Thomas Russell
	Christian Schmidt	Peter Caspers
Directors of the Poor	Franklin Nelson	Patrick Beatty
	Christian Krieger	Henry Kaul
Alderman 1st Ward	Dr. E. P. Christian	A. Sichmund
	R. C. Conwell	Joseph Maneth
	R. W. Leighton	John Grentzinger
2nd Ward	H. Ocobock	Thomas Delaney
	William H. Holabaugh	William Biechele
	James Cahalan	(no listing)
Constables	Christian Thon	
	William Donaldson	
	Charles Schweiss	

The election of the officers was held the first Monday of April, 1867, and the results proved to be "astonishing" to the Republicans and "surprising" to the Democrats.

Mayor	John S. Van Alstyne	R	150	Majority
Recorder	Peter Lacy	R	102	Majority
Treasurer	John F. W. Thon*	R	151	Majority
Marshal	Thomas Jewell	D	25	
Justices of the Peace ..	L. Ferguson 3 years	D	61	Majority
	R. V. Briggs 2 years	R	148	Majority
	Alex Stewart 1 year	R	57	Majority
Directors of the Poor..	C. B. Krieger	R	166	
	Franklin Nelson	R	42	
School Inspectors ..	C. Schmidt	R	88	
	S. Pray	R	38	
Alderman 1st Ward ..	R. Conwell	R	43	
	E. P. Christian	R	20	
2nd Ward ..	D. Sullivan	D	3	
	R. W. Leighton	R	21	

*See footnote, page 164.

3rd Ward	H. Ocobock	R	13
	Fred Kreiger ⁴⁸	R	31
Constables 1st Ward	C. Thon	R	14
2nd Ward	R. Mahar ⁴⁹	D	14
3rd Ward	William Donaldson	R	8

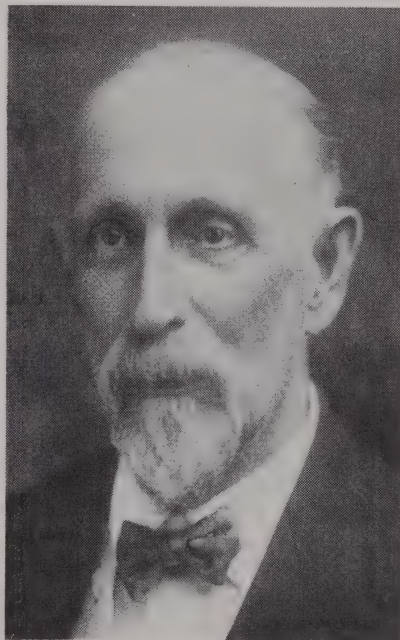
Under the first Aldermanic charter government, the boundary lines of the city were defined the same as in the village days, and included all the lands east of the west line of the railroad tracks, with the territory divided into three wards: the First Ward, including all land between Northline and Oak, the Second Ward, extending from Oak to Eureka, and the Third Ward, from Eureka to Grove. In 1904, after the annexation of South Detroit, a Fourth Ward was added to include the area from Forest street to the boundary line of the new territory, now known as Pennsylvania Avenue. The elective officers provided for in the original act were a Mayor, Recorder, Treasurer, who also served as a collector, a Marshal, two School Inspectors, two Directors of the Poor, three Justices of the Peace, and two Aldermen and one Constable from each Ward. The appointive officers were to be City Attorney, Street Commissioner, a Chief Engineer of the Fire Department (called Fire Marshal). The Mayor, Treasurer, Marshal, one Director of the Poor, and one School Inspector were to be elected annually. After the first years, the Recorder and School Inspectors were to be chosen biennially. Provisions were also made for alternating the terms of the Justices of the Peace (1-2-3 year terms) and Alderman after the first election. One Alderman served two years, thus providing an experienced alderman with a new member from each Ward. Subsequent amendments to the charter in 1869, 1873, 1875, 1877, 1885 and 1896 provided for the following changes: In 1869 provision was made for electing an assessor which

⁴⁸There is no name written in the council minutes for a first treasurer. For the past 87 years, the citizens have accorded Frank Brohl, elected treasurer in 1868, the honor of being the first treasurer. Mr. Louis Brohl, ex-mayor and son of Frank, stated in an interview in November, 1953, that he had always been puzzled over the omission of a treasurer's name in 1867 and did not himself wish to claim the distinction for his father. The Brohl family had merely accepted public opinion and the council record. The voting tabulations have been reprinted from the Detroit Advertiser and Tribune for April 16, 1867. The inclusion of the name R. Mahar and Frederick Kreiger which were not listed in the party slates, may have resulted from a last minute change or from a written in vote.

was abolished in 1885 in favor of a Ward Supervisor in each Ward to handle tax affairs; in 1873 election of a Police Justice; the 1875 amendments covered salary determinations; in 1887 the election of a Street Commissioner and the changing of the title of City Recorder to City Clerk, title of Fire Marshal to Fire Chief, creating the office of Alderman-at-large, and returning the office of Marshal to an elective one; in 1896 the office of Alderman-at-large was abolished; the offices of Marshal, Street Commissioner became appointive; only the Mayor, City Clerk, Treasurer, Alderman, Constable, Justice of the Peace remained elective.

The little Old Brown School on Chestnut Street, the only city-owned building available, echoed with the transactions of business by this small group of men elected to initiate plans for the city of the future. At 7:30 p.m. under the light of a kerosene lamp, Mayor John S. Van Alstyne, a young man of 37, rose to address the assembled body. He called attention to the problems that they would be called upon to legislate, and to the need of doing everything for the good of the future welfare of the city.

In the choice of John S. Van Alstyne as the "father of the city," Wyandotte had selected wisely. The guidance of a man of such wisdom had much to do with the welfare and growth of the infant town. John Schermerhorn Van Alstyne was a native New Yorker of Dutch descent, the son of Albany's leading physician and surgeon. At the age of 16, young John decided to come to Detroit to study law in the office of Barstow and Lockwood, and in 1855 he was admitted to the bar of the State of Michigan. Through the connections of this firm with the business of Eber Ward, John Van Alstyne attracted the attention of the industrial leader who appointed him manager of the company's large real estate holdings in Wyandotte. About six months later, he was made manager of the company's business, having proven himself well qualified for these important duties. In 1861 he became associated with Alexander



John S. Van Alstyne, first mayor

Stewart in forming a lumber business—Stewart and Van Alstyne. During the intervening Civil War he was in the service of the government, having been assigned to the Pay Masters' Department of the U. S. Army in Washington, D. C., New York, South Carolina, and the Army of the Potomac.

Returning to Wyandotte at the expiration of his service, he continued the lumber business until 1872 when he resumed the management of the Eureka Iron Company until 1892.

Although he wished to serve only one year as Mayor, his administrative guidance of city affairs extended well into the next century.

The aldermen that sat in this first council of the new city were: Dr. E. P. Christian, R. W. Leighton, H. N. Ocobock, Dennis Sullivan, R. C. Conwell, and Frederick Kreiger.

After the mayor had set forth the duties and responsibilities of the men as representatives of the city of Wyandotte, Alderman Christian offered the first motion ever made in the city. It was that the chairman appoint a committee of three to draft rules of order by which the council would be governed.

The motion was carried and Aldermen Christian, Ocobock and Sullivan were appointed to comprise the committee for the drafting of the rules of order. The committee was prepared with such a draft and the report was read.

In order to allow for the transaction of business in dignified and rapid manner, the mayor made selection of the following committees: Ways and Means—Aldermen Christian, Leighton and Ocobock; Education—Conwell, Sullivan and Kreiger; Claims and Accounts—Leighton, Ocobock and Sullivan; License—Sullivan, Conwell, and Ocobock; Health—Christian, Leighton and Kreiger; Pounds—Kreiger, Conwell and Sullivan; Streets—Ocobock, Sullivan and Christian; Taxes—Conwell, Leighton and Kreiger.

The various committees appointed, the Aldermen then proceeded to the election of a city attorney to represent the city in all legal matters. Robert Briggs was unanimously elected the city's first attorney in the first official ballot ever taken.

Alderman Leighton then moved that the council proceed to the election of a street commissioner. An informal ballot was taken. Two votes were given to Abraham Whiting, two for H. W. Pardo and one each for John Grentsinger and George Thon. A formal vote was then called for and H. W. Pardo received four votes and William Bolton two.

A committee of Aldermen Leighton, Conwell and Kreiger was then selected to procure a hall for the use of the council for meetings and the transaction of other business that might arise.

Feeling that it was necessary to have a city seal, Alderman Christian, who up to this time had offered all motions except one, moved that the mayor and city recorder, Peter Lacy, procure a seal for the city.

Three resolutions were then offered by Alderman Christian. The first to the effect that the city attorney be instructed to bring in an ordinance regulating the duties of the various offices of the city government. Another that the attorney inquire into and report to the council the steps necessary to be taken to protect the rights of the city to public grounds, and the third, that the city treasurer be required to furnish bond of \$6,000.

Conwell then offered a resolution that the street commissioner be required to give bond of \$1,000.

Resolution by Leighton was to the effect that the street commissioner be informed of his election and proceed as soon as possible to repair the bridge on Eureka Avenue opposite the residence owned by William Hallabaugh.

Other resolutions were to the effect that the marshal furnish bond of \$1,000 and that Franklin Nelson and C. B. Krieger be required to furnish Poor Masters bonds of \$1,000 each. This latter resolution was amended to increase the bonds of the Poor Masters to \$1,500.

One little incident in this first meeting shows that Alderman Christian was the chief spokesman among the aldermen, that his voice overpowered that of all the others combined.

On the amendment to the last resolution an aye and nay vote was called for but the result was uncertain. When a vote by roll call was then made, Alderman Christian cast the only nay vote.

A motion to adjourn was then carried and the first meeting of the first city government of Wyandotte came to a close.

In the second meeting held the next week, the attorney presented the duties of each of the officers after which the matter of bids for halls in which to transact the city business were received. The hall of J. F. W. Thon was offered with fuel, lights, furniture and janitor service for \$100 a year.

The rooms of W. Farnsworth with the same proposal as made by Thon were offered. J. F. Hoersch made an offer of his hall with free lights and janitor service for \$100 a year.

When the ballots were counted, Thon was given three votes, Farns-

worth two and Hoersch one. Three ballots were taken with the same result, after which Hoersch withdrew his offer and by so doing split the vote to three and three. A deadlock ensued on the voting and finally the mayor was called upon to cast a vote. This was the first ever cast by a mayor of this city to decide any proposition. Mayor Van Alstyne decided to accept the offer of Mr. Thon.

As one considers the present rentals in Wyandotte, the price of furniture, fuel and janitor service, the price of \$100 a year seems exceptionally reasonable.

The first effect of the incorporation of the city was manifested in the increased value of property and the raising of rents on business places. "The rents on the stores in the Union block are raised 50 per cent and unless there is a general prostration of business, all real estate in and around will advance 25 per cent. The city fathers have commenced their labors vigorously and actually threatened to reduce bipeds and quadrupeds to a state of decent civilization."

The last statement is in reference to one of the first ordinances passed by the council in June, 1867. It was an ordinance prohibiting animals running at large "at the first instance," and offering a good fee for their impounding—25 to 50 cents per head. The consequence of this regulation was related: "The rush of these useful adjuncts to every well regulated household was prodigious the first day and the consumption of candy by the boys equally so, showing clearly that they had suddenly come into possession of funds. In persuading four hogs belonging to John Grentzinger to change base, so much violence was used that one died and the others were much injured for which violence four boys have been arrested and held for trial at the Circuit."

The establishment of the city's first newspaper *The Courier* in June, 1867, was also heralded by the citizens as "pleasing evidence of our growing importance."

Another important event in June of 1867 called attention to an adjunct city function—the fire department, which has generally been accepted as first organized in 1870, according to city records. The *Detroit Advertiser and Tribune* for June 12, 1867, relates the account of one of Wyandotte's first disastrous fires in the Farnsworth Building in which was housed the *Wyandotte Courier's* offices, Robert V. Briggs law office, and John Smith's billiard hall. The newspaper further stated that "it was the effectiveness of the hook and ladder company which saved the town from a complete conflagration." It was also noted that the hook and ladder unit "had been fully organized, uniformed

and provided with apparatus earlier in the month." The loss was complete and amounted to \$15,000 for Farnsworth, \$2,000 for Smith, \$2,900 for editor Lee, and \$1,000 for Robert Briggs (the only one uninsured). The *Courier* was only able to rally for six months after the fire and this accounts for the fact that no files have ever been found for this first newspaper.



First Volunteer Fire Department on the grounds of the Eureka Iron and Steel Company

The city records differ in having dated the history of the Fire Department from the year 1870 when the city council adopted the initial provisions "of protection" and "extinguishing of" fires. The councilmen had recognized the value and importance of the fire prevention and protection as early as 1868, doubtlessly influenced by the fire of June, 1867, when they requested S. L. Potter, Abraham Whiting, and J. S. Trites to investigate the cost and terms of payment for a fire engine. No equipment was purchased, however, until 1870 when twelve Babcock extinguishers were purchased and an ordinance governing their custody was passed. This date has been considered the historic one for the establishment of the first volunteer fire department under the direction of Joseph Masseth appointed in 1870, and John Smith appointed in 1871.

The next important date in fire protection was in 1875 when an election was ordered for the purpose of voting a tax to purchase a fire

engine. Accordingly, this was the first bond issue in the history of Wyandotte and was passed for \$6,000 payable 4-6 years. The engine was purchased in 1876 and affectionately named "The City of Wyandotte." John Merreth and G. W. Tilford were named chief engineer and engineer respectively.

On the auspicious occasion of the arrival of the engine, the Eureka Iron and Steel Company donated a building on the grounds of the factory for use as a Fire House. To match the equipment, a dignified Fire Department was officially organized, the first department formed in the city, under the following officers: Joseph Gartner, President; A. Whiting, Vice-president; J. Cahalan, Secretary; J. Girardin, Treasurer; and W. J. Simons, Michael Ganley, Oscar Sanborn, engineers; John Hill, fireman; and Dan McGuckin and R. Hartley, assistants.

During the intervening years between 1875-1909, when the first full time duty Fire Department was established, the story has covered details of appointing new Fire Marshals, arguing over new equipment, including fire alarm boxes, which were finally placed in 1894; establishing salaries, and arriving at a fire or two in the meantime. In 1885 the name of Fire Marshal was changed to Fire Chief, and the volunteer personnel was allotted a salary for particular duties.

The efficiently operated department of today is a far cry from the fire fighting techniques of yesteryears when buckets, the river, and a handful of men were all that stood between the flames and the wooden buildings. Prizes were offered to the first man to arrive with a team of horses after the alarm was sounded. Besides the remuneration of perhaps \$1.50, the first privilege was to draw the engine; the second arrival carried the volunteers. How the alarm was sounded may be indicated by the council order to purchase three torches, three lanterns, and three trumpets. One time the vigorous whistle blowing of the D. H. Burrell Company was mistaken for a warning, and the teamsters reported for a false alarm. The regular signal for many years was a long and three short blasts from the Eureka Iron Company's whistle. After the City Hall was built, a 1,000 pound bell was purchased,⁴⁰ which was duly clanged by the first alarmist to arrive.

The fastest action ever witnessed in answer to an alarm occurred when the volunteers flew to the corner of Oak and Front streets (Van Alstyne today) in answer to a call which they thought was the Marx

⁴⁰The bell hangs today in the belfry of St. Elizabeth's Roman Catholic Church.

Brewery, only to be confronted with the disappointing task of aiding Dolly Haven's threatened newspaper office. The *Wyandotte Herald*s were saved for posterity without a glass of cool refreshment.

In 1880, the equipment was moved to the new City Hall and a regular teamster, William Roberts, was appointed. A team of horses was also purchased by the city. Although this helped in eliminating the long delays formerly encountered when men at work had to unhitch their horses, go to the Fire House, and then proceed to the fire, the problems of fire fighting continued in other matters. A house was consumed because after the firemen had arrived they discovered they had left a coupling wrench for the fire hose at the station. In fighting another fire the newly installed and long heralded water main from the river to the City Hall proved inadequate. The first pressure of water through the main broke the hose. The first hose cart proved to be unsuitable for use with horses and it had a habit of breaking down at the crucial moment. Many citizens, anticipating such difficulties, used to place wet blankets on their houses if they felt an adjoining conflagration might be uncontrollable.

What may seem ludicrous in a long range historic view was serious business to these pioneers whose duty it was to prevent the city from a complete conflagration as had often happened to larger cities throughout the United States. It is to the credit of these conscientious citizens that Wyandotte never suffered a fire of disastrous proportions. Serious fires have occurred in various industries, and homes have been completely destroyed but the extent of the fires have been confined and loss of life has been negligible in the one hundred years of the city's history. Conscientiousness reached its pinnacle in 1889 when the company was called to the grounds of the River Park Hotel during its final destruction. Realizing that the buildings were a hopeless matter and, shall we say, imbued with the Wyandotte spirit of getting the "money's worth for a dollar spent," the firemen decided not to waste their time or effort spent in reaching the scene, and played the hose on an adjacent light post.⁵⁰

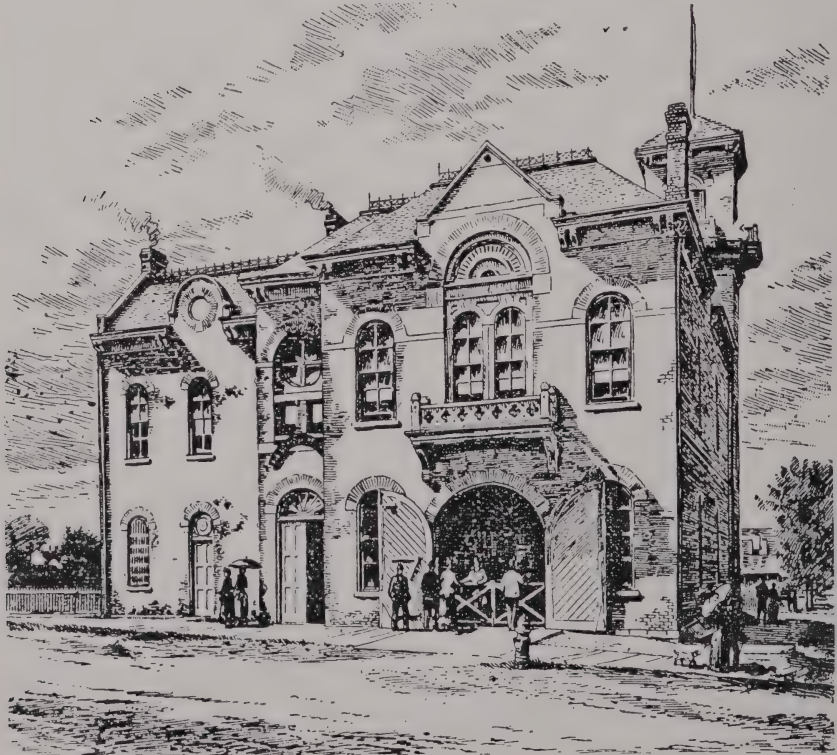
Gone are the days when the excitement of fire fighting attracted every barefoot boy and girl and the business of the city stopped for the event. Since the year 1909 when a formal full time Fire Department was established, and 1921 when a Fire Commission was appointed and a two

⁵⁰Wyandotters had become displeased with the management of the hotel and were not unhappy when it burned.



City Officials, 1888

Top row, left to right: William Lacy, Frank Marx, Conrad Bigler, Frank Wolcott. Second row: John Trites, Dr. T. J. Langlois, John Ginzel, George Coomer. Bottom row: F. H. Walters, Jim McCloy, unidentified, Charles Genthe.



First City Hall

Built at the corner of Elm and Biddle Avenue, 1880

platoon system instituted, the dangers of the business of fire fighting have become the sole province of the Fire Department and its fighters. However, although the matters of fire fighting are no longer the responsibility of the individual the equipment and firemen still hold enchantment for the young and the old.

Efficiently equipped to protect the lives and property of the citizens are three stations—Oak and Twentieth, built in 1927-1928, Goddard at Biddle in 1916, and the new central Fire Station, Maple and Third, in 1939. The equipment consists of four pumpers, one rescue truck and one aerial ladder, one chemical truck, 94 alarm boxes and a trained personnel of 56 firemen.

Although the Police Department has never created the glamour of the old time Fire Department, it has been a necessary protective function of "government for the people." In the first charter of the city, provisions were made for the election of a City Marshal and Constable for each Ward. It has been doubtful just how much influence law and order had on the city in the pioneer days. Reports are conflicting as to the efficiency of such an office. The citizens were a hardy, rough group, resenting all restraints. Saturday night was a special and heavy night at the saloons after the week's work was over, and in the customary brawls, especially in the Third Ward, where the Irish marched upon the Germans, the intervening Marshal oftentimes got the worse of the encounters. Alone on the job he was more often beaten up and thrown out. The Aldermen also repeatedly struggled with the elected officials to have them enforce specified ordinances. Independently elected, they more often told the council what they would enforce and wouldn't.

There have been no records of lock-up locations until the building of the City Hall in 1880. A cell block was provided in that building dubbed "the cooler." Subsequently, because of crowded conditions in the City Hall, the Police Department was moved to the former J. H. Bishop factory on the river front in 1918. In 1920 the present building at the corner of Pine and Biddle Avenue was purchased from the Detroit Shipbuilding Company.

The position of City Marshal, during the pioneer period, changed from elective to appointment and back to elective until 1903 when the first uniformed Police Force was established with John Watson named the first Police Chief. A force of three patrolmen was included, Christopher Thon, John Lorenz, and Frank Wolcott, all of whom had had experience as City Marshal.

In 1908 the city council passed an act placing the Wyandotte police

force under the control of a commission instead of the mayor. The law was to go into effect after the partisan election which caused considerable disturbance and confusion since the incoming officers resented accepting an edict which they had not enacted and to which they had not made the appointments. The Police Commission was the result of Mayor Jerome Holland Bishop's conviction that better police administration would be effected through such an arrangement. The State Supreme Court to which the whole matter had been appealed upheld the appropriation for the Police Commission and it became an established reality with W. W. Bishop, Alpin Miller and George W. Blake seated as the first Commissioners of Police.

The next important step in law protection occurred in 1928 when the first police woman was hired to look after juvenile delinquents and subsequent social problems resulting from crime. Mrs. Dorothy B. McCabe, an experienced official formerly connected with the Detroit Police Department Women's Division, received the first appointment, followed by Mrs. Alma Cooper in 1932, who held the position for over twenty years. Except for the unfortunate interlude of the liquor racket days in the 1920's the police efficiency in the city since the enactment of the Police Commission has more than kept pace with law enforcement practices throughout the United States. The records show a minimum of crime incidents.

The Aldermanic form of government withstood the test of time until 1910 when a group agitated for a Commission form. A charter committee composed of H. S. Amiot, Louis Behm, Isham W. Brewer, H. A. Eberts, Charles Gartner, Hugo Mehlhose, and Charles E. Marr, chairman, was appointed the task of writing a new charter.

An outstanding feature of this new governmental form was the abolishment of partisan elections in the city of Wyandotte. By this method, a Mayor and four Commissioners were elected by popular vote from the city at large to direct the affairs of government. Each of the four successful Commission candidates was appointed head of a department labeled Commission of Public Safety; Commission of Finance and Revenue; Commission of Streets, Sewers and Public Property; Commissioner of Municipal Service; and Commissioner of Public Affairs. The elections were designated biennially and in this charter the office of City Assessor (appointive) was reinstated. The elective offices were Mayor, Commissioners, City Clerk, City Treasurer, Justice of the Peace, and Constables.

The first Commission government in 1911 included: Mayor—Charles



First Commission Government

Top row, left to right: Hubert Amiot, Carl Schroeder; Second row: T. Challenger, Mayor Charles Marr, Charles Gartner.

E. Marr, Commissioners—Charles E. Gartner, Thomas E. Challenger, Hubert S. Amiot, and Carl F. Schroeder, City Clerk—John L. Sullivan, Treasurer—James C. Headman.

In 1925 another change in governmental administration was advocated which resulted in the writing of a new charter under the able guidance of W. Leo Cahalan, and the adoption of the present Mayor-Council or Councilmanic organization. This charter was considered by legal experts and outside observers as one of the best ever written, and it has been widely copied by other municipalities. The elections have remained non-partisan, with the offices of Mayor, six Councilmen, City Clerk, City Treasurer, City Assessor, Justice of the Peace, and Associate Justice, and two Constables submitted to the electorate. Elections were to be held annually, excepting Justices of the Peace, who were elected for four years. In 1950 after public opinion had expressed a desire for a strengthened charter, three amendments were voted which granted the Mayor veto power, and the right of casting a vote in council ties. This charter was evolved under committee members: Charles Block, Fred E. Van Alstyne, Thomas Benjamin, John C. Cahalan, Jr., John Clements, Joseph Cramer, Clare Allen, John Marx, and Joseph Lapszynski.

The location of the council meeting chambers and city offices has been moved four times within the history of the city: from the Old

Brown School to the Thon block, to the City Hall building corner of Elm and Biddle and to the present location at the corner of Superior and Biddle Avenue in the former residence of Jerome Holland Bishop. The home was purchased by the city with funds furnished by the Municipal Light and Service in December, 1934. The house was altered and completed for occupancy in July, 1935. The formal dedication took place in October, 1935.

From the pioneer days to the present time, several men have met, at first under kerosene lamps at 7:30 p. m., and at present (with the addition of a councilwoman) in an electric lighted hall at 8:00 p. m., to determine the welfare of the city and its people. Given the power by right of public franchise, to wield an influence that can build or destroy, it has lain within their capabilities and desires to make a bigger and better Wyandotte or leave it dormant or delinquent. Their judgments may have been wrong in many cases, but we who are now living within the city cannot but believe that their intentions for the best interest of the city have been sincere, as evidenced by the advances which have been made over the past one hundred years.

Territory has been added to the original boundary lines; health conditions have been improved; lights, water, gas, sewers have been installed and maintained; businesses have been encouraged; recreational activities have been sponsored and developed; and good housing and general living conditions have been protected.

In the accomplishment of the city's affairs the governing bodies have long since lost sight of the "rules of order" so diligently initiated by the first legislative body. Even in the 1880's the members were repeatedly reminded that it would be well for the "members to study up on the rules governing parliamentary bodies." Only the first few meetings during 1867 were quiet and orderly. Good fights have characterized legislative deliberations for nearly ninety years. It may be aptly repeated that Wyandotters believe "there's a lot of fun in a hard fight. The kind of chap or the right kind of political body can get a lot of fun and a mighty lot of satisfaction out of every fight if they know they have battled for the right and have fought their best. When the battle has proven a winning one, the satisfaction becomes more evident and goads them on to fresh endeavors."

The most serious and involved municipal fight occurred over the establishment of the Municipal Light Plant, versus private ownership. Formidable sides were drawn up under the leaders, John C. Cahalan (Municipal service) and E. H. Doyle (private ownership). In some

instances everlasting enmities developed over this issue between individuals and families and from the date of the Municipal Light inception in 1892 through the 1930's every city election carried an undercurrent of influence wielded by the cliques of politicians who fought under the Cahalan or Doyle banner. The philosophies engendered by the light question never died.

In spite of the controversial governmental spirit of Wyandotte's affairs, the government has always experienced clean, moral and democratic administrations. No major scandal has ever scorched the city's legislative bodies.⁶¹

The epitome of Wyandotte's good government reputation was recognized nationally on the great day of June 15, 1935. The "National Observer" magazine published in New York commented in an article entitled "Fine Work Accomplished by Administration in Wyandotte, Michigan," that:

"... It is most interesting at this time to review the record of cities where a real measure of progress has been achieved due to sound administration policies.

"In this connection the condition and record of the city of Wyandotte, in the state of Michigan, have attracted particular attention.

"In Wyandotte we find a city administration which is functioning smoothly and effectively. Every member of it is co-operating to the fullest extent in aiding the city's progress.

"Mayor Thomas A. Davis, the popular chief executive of Wyandotte, has followed the finest type of policies in his direction of the city's affairs, policies which have been solidly in line with the highest ideals of American progress.

"The administration has given to Wyandotte efficiency and progress, and is a splendid example of what can be achieved even today through intelligent city management, and in the face of considerable difficulties.

"Assisting greatly Mayor Davis in the direction of the city have been

⁶¹Only four incidents have been recorded *in print* since the incorporation of the city in 1867. These deviations have been individual and have not extended their ugly claws into the sound central governmental structure or departments as a whole. Many unpleasant episodes *related* by citizens concerning the government may be classified, judiciously, as resulting from political chicanery. It is to be remembered that in life itself there is always present the conflict between the good and the evil, government not exempted. In Wyandotte, the real test has been that the good has triumphed, the government has maintained a strong unwavering line of progress—the word corruption a foreign term to the stable governmental organization.

Lawrence J. LaCourse, city clerk; John T. McWhirter, city treasurer; and W. Hugh Williams, city attorney. The board of councilmen is composed of men of long experience and they have rendered extremely valuable work in office. They consist of Howard L. Baxter, H. L. Blomshield, John Clements, Arthur F. Gobb, Ford Wagar and John J. Wagner."

The achievement of good government in Wyandotte has not been an easy task for the representative officials. There have been many occasions to try the souls of men. Some of the councilmen have become discouraged like the members in 1887 who cried out, "What has confidence in committees already done for the city? Look at Cherry Street which has been grabbed up by an outside firm; look at Oak, our public landing lost to the city—look at Oak Street, landing claimed by John P. Clark who does as he pleases with it. Further up there is Chestnut Street, a hide and go seek street, and Superior Avenue which is no better. The Wyandotte Boat Club I suppose claims the foot of Vine Street, and the Mineral Company and D. H. Burrell Company have the rest of the river front. Where is our city park? Gone to the Eureka Iron Company, and all on account of having confidence in committees. I tell you that our committees need watching and need it bad. It is a shame to be an alderman in this city—yes, it is a shame and if anybody wants my seat he can have it."

Others have taken their responsibilities of power too seriously as the pioneer alderman who refused to read a petition to close saloons at 9:00 p. m. because "he didn't want the public to know how many ignorant people there were in Wyandotte" (he was a saloon keeper, of course), or the one who thought the offices of city attorney and city marshal should be abolished since "there was no more use for a city attorney than for a fifth wheel on a wagon, and the city marshal was a useless office."

There have been many wise and patient representatives who have sought ways and means to solve the problems: of nuisances of cow bells ringing at night; what to do with the man who dug a ditch diagonally across Orange Street in order to drain water from his front yard; what measures to apply to the Marshal who said "he would be . . . if he would run in any cows" when impounding animals; how to solve smoke abatement and fire dangers after Marshal Baumler, carrying out council orders to secure co-operation from local factories burning wood for fuel, reported that one manufacturer said "that the council might go to Hell and get their own spark catchers if they wanted one"; to decide whether to agree with the councilman who suggested that

our citizens who were looking for a snug warm place to loaf should visit the public library which was already maintained at taxpayers' expense; and to determine whether an animal attached with a long rope could be impounded for "running at large."

Nearly all of the Mayors of the city have been men of high caliber, illustrious leaders who have followed definite principles in the conduct of their civic affairs. One outstanding Mayor's philosophy was characterized by the motivating force "to show my faith by my acts." Another who came to this country to escape the oppression of the Kaiser chose to remember that "Christ is my Savior, America is my Nation, Wyandotte is my Home." Two favorite expressions of one of the city's popular Mayors have long been remembered, "I don't know, but we can try," "Many things are legal down here, but they are not right up there." Many citizens have been grateful to the Mayor who in the face of severe criticism, stood firmly and staunchly by the city's heritage of respect for home ownership in his fight to save "shacks" (so called by the opposition) from business encroachments.

Wyandotte City has reason to be proud of the groups of men who throughout the years have guided the city in its commercial activity, in its relation to its neighbors, in its vast responsibilities for the good of the public welfare. They have established the precedents which will protect the generations to come and inspire the officials of tomorrow.

Elective Officials of the City of Wyandotte* 1867—1954

1867

Mayor, John S. Van Alstyne; *Recorder*, Peter Lacy; *Treasurer*, J. F. W. Thon; *Marshall*, Thomas Jewel; *Justices of the Peace*, Leander Ferguson, R. V. Briggs, Alex Stewart; *Directors of the Poor*, C. B. Krieger, Franklin Nelson; *School Inspectors*, C. Schmidt, Sylvester Pray; *Aldermen*, R. Conwell, Dr. E. P. Christian, Dennis Sullivan, R. W. Leighton, H. Ocobock, Frederick Kreiger; *Constables*, C. Thon, R. Mahar, William Donaldson.

1868

Mayor, Charles Partridge; *Recorder*, Peter Lacy, second year; *Treasurer*, Frank Brohl; *Marshal*, John Smith; *Justice of the Peace*, James Kelly; *School Inspector*, Robert Briggs; *Director of the Poor*, John McPeck; *Aldermen*, Joseph Mareth, Peter Campeau, John Bittorf; *Constables*, Augustus Schuffert, Dennis Sullivan, Henry Kaul.

*Aldermen and constables are listed in order of Wards 1, 2 and 3.

1869

Mayor, Charles Partridge; *Recorder*, Peter Lacy (new election); *Treasurer*, J. F. W. Thon; *Assessor*, (first) George Marx; *Marshal*, John Smith; *Justice of the Peace*, Robert V. Briggs; *School Inspector*, William Leighton; *Aldermen*, Isaac Strong, Thomas Delaney, James Cahil; *Constables*, Augustus S. Schuffert, John Loeckner, Robert Houston.

1870

Mayor, Dr. E. P. Christian; *Recorder*, Peter Lacy (second year); *Treasurer*, J. F. W. Thon; *Assessor*, John A. Morgan; *Marshal*, A. McTaggart; *Justice of the Peace*, John Robinson; *Director of the Poor*, George Thon; *School Inspector*, J. S. Van Alstyne; *Aldermen*, Charles Jacobs, George Zeis, Charles Wilks; *Constables*, Augustus Schuffert, Charles Speck, H. W. Pardo.

1871

Mayor, Thomas Jewel; *Recorder*, Francis Murphy; *Treasurer*, J. F. W. Hoersch; *Assessor*, Leander Ferguson; *Marshal*, Patrick Welch; *Justice of the Peace*, Moses B. Widner; *Director of the Poor*, C. Grimm; *School Inspector*, A. Whiting; *Aldermen*, Alfred Plumb, Patrick Keveney, James Cahil; *Constables*, Augustus Schuffert, John Loeckner, H. W. Pardo.

1872

Mayor, Thomas Jewel; *Recorder*, Francis Murphy (second year); *Treasurer*, John F. W. Hoersch; *Assessor*, George Marx; *Marshal*, Patrick Welch; *Justice of the Peace*, Leander Ferguson; *Director of the Poor*, P. Keveney; *School Inspector*, Francis Murphy; *Aldermen*, H. H. Eby, Mark Rush, Peter Coaster; *Constables*, Augustus Schuffert, John Loeckner, E. Whalen.

1873

Mayor, Horace N. Ocobock; *Recorder*, Alfred Plumb; *Treasurer*, John S. Bennett; *Assessor*, George Marx; *Police Justice* (first), S. A. Gorman; *Marshal*, Herbert Bullard; *Justice of the Peace*, J. Moore; *Director of the Poor*, William Bolton; *School Inspector*, J. A. Morgan; *Aldermen*, F. Stieler, Michael Ganley, S. D. Hinds; *Constables*, Augustus Schuffert, John Loeckner, C. H. Tompkins.

1874

Mayor, Theophilus J. Langlois; *Recorder*, Alfred Plumb (second year); *Treasurer*, John S. Bennet; *Assessor*, George Marx; *Police Justice*, Richard J. Jones; *Marshal*, John Smith; *Justice of the Peace*, Moses B. Widner; *Director of the Poor*, John George Thon; *School Inspectors*,

William Bolton (two years), Frederick Raubolt (one year); *Aldermen*, James Keusch, Patrick Fury, Oscar Sanborn; *Constables*, Augustus Schuffert, John Loeckner, H. W. Pardo.

1875

Mayor, Charles Partridge (six weeks, left city) John Bittorf appointed by Council to fulfill term pro tem; *Recorder*, Alfred Plumb; *Treasurer*, William Armstrong; *Assessor*, George Marx; *Police Justice*, Oliver Colburn; *Marshal*, Patrick Welch; *Justice of the Peace*, Richard Jones; *Director of the Poor*, John McPeck; *School Inspector*, George W. Tilford; *Aldermen*, Joseph Girardin, Michael Ganley, Jacob Shepherd; *Constables*, Augustus Schuffert, John Loeckner, Daniel Block.

1876

Mayor, John Bittorf; *Recorder*, Alfred Plumb (second year); *Treasurer*, Christian Grimm; *Assessor*, Francis Murphy; *Police Justice*, Anthony Teshey; *Marshal*, Augustus Schweiss; *Justice of the Peace*, Leander Ferguson; *Director of the Poor*, John McPeck; *School Inspector*, A. Whiting; *Aldermen*, Theodore Megges, Patrick Fury, Oscar Sanborn; *Constables*, Augustus Schuffert, John Loeckner, Frederick Ginzel.

1877

Mayor, James S. Campbell; *Recorder*, Jeremiah Drennan; *Treasurer*, Christian Grimm; *Assessor*, George Marx; *Police Justice*, Francis Murphy; *Marshal*, (omitted, changed to appointive); *Justice of the Peace*, Oliver D. Hibbard; *Street Commissioner*, (first) Frederick Raubolt; *Director of the Poor*, Frank Stieler; *School Inspector*, John P. Debo; *Aldermen*, Charles J. Northrup, Martin Jordan, Peter Coaster; *Constables*, Augustus Schuffert, John Loeckner, Patrick Welch.

1878

Mayor, John Bittorf; *Recorder*, Jeremiah Drennan, (second year); *Treasurer*, R. C. Conwell; *Assessor*, R. W. Leighton; *Police Justice*, George W. Tilford; *Justice of the Peace*, John J. Tillman; *Street Commissioner*, John Franklin; *Director of the Poor*, Frank Stieler; *School Inspectors*, Christian Speck, Hezekiah Milkins; *Aldermen*, John E. Nellis, Richard Mason, Reinhold Thon, August Asmus; *Constables*, Augustus Schuffert, Hiram Milspaugh, H. W. Pardo.

1879

Mayor, James Keusch; *Recorder*, Jeremiah Drennan; *Treasurer*, Joseph Gartner; *Assessor*, R. W. Leighton; *Police Justice*, Moses B. Widner; *Justice of the Peace*, Richard Jones; *Street Commissioner*, Charles Sachs; *Director of the Poor*, William Wilson; *School Inspector*, Henry

Eichman; *Aldermen*, H. H. Eby, John Robinson, John P. Debo, A. W. Milkins; *Constables*, Augustus Schuffert (removed and John Loeckner appointed), James Collins, Charles F. F. Behm, Leander Ferguson. One justice died in 1879 and George W. Coomer was appointed to fill unexpired term.

1880

Mayor, James Keusch; *Recorder*, Jeremiah Drennan (second year); *Treasurer*, Frank Brohl; *Assessor*, Robert W. Leighton; *Police Justice*, (not elected again until 1883); *Justice of the Peace*, James S. Campbell; *Street Commissioner*, August Lehman; *Director of the Poor*, John C. Thon; *School Inspector*, T. J. Langlois; *Aldermen*, Richard Mason, John Beattie, S. O. Hinds; *Constables*, Augustus Schuffert, John Loeckner, Charles Behm.

1881

Mayor, Michael Ganley, Sr.; *Recorder*, Almond L. DePoutee; *Treasurer*, Frank Brohl; *Assessor*, Robert W. Leighton; *Justice of the Peace*, Francis Murphy; *Street Commissioner*, Frederick Raubolt; *Director of the Poor*, James Cahalan, Sr.; *School Inspector*, Henry E. Thon; *Aldermen*, John Robinson, Conrad Caspar, Albert Raubolt; *Constables*, Christian Marquardt, Dennis Sullivan, M. H. Clements.

1882

Mayor, Thomas D. Evans; *Recorder*, A. L. DePoutee (second year); *Treasurer*, Frank Brohl; *Assessor*, Jeremiah Drennan; *Justice of the Peace*, Sylvester Pray; *Street Commissioner*, John Coop; *Director of the Poor*, Henry Rentz; *School Inspector*, Samuel T. Hendricks; *Aldermen*, Richard Mason, Thomas Raynard, Sylvester O. Hinds; *Constables*, Christian Marquardt, Edmund Bessey, Patrick Welch.

1883

Mayor, Thomas D. Evans; *Recorder*, Almond L. DePoutee; *Treasurer*, Frank Brohl; *Assessor*, Jeremiah Drennan; *Police Justice*, Charles G. Chittenden; *Justice of the Peace*, John J. Tillman; *Street Commissioner*, John Coop; *Director of the Poor*, John George Thon; *School Inspector*, James Shannon; *Aldermen*, Samuel J. Lawrence, W. M. Lacy, John C. Jackson; *Constables*, Christopher Thon, Jr., Dennis Sullivan, Samuel Lyons.

1884

Mayor, Thomas D. Evans; *Recorder*, A. L. DePoutee (second year); *Treasurer*, Frank Brohl; *Assessor*, Charles Schuffert; *Police Justice*, Oliver D. Hibbard; *Justice of the Peace*, Marlin A. Coan; *Street Commissioner*, Peter LaSalle; *Director of the Poor*, John Riley; *School*

Inspector, Charles G. Chittenden; *Aldermen*, George Stormont, Conrad Casper, Edward Purcell; *Constables*, Christopher Thon, Jr., Dennis Sullivan, Charles Shaumburg.

1885

Mayor, Jerome Holland Bishop; *Recorder*, D. W. Roberts; *Treasurer*, Joseph Girardin; *Assessor*, Charles Schuffert; *Police Justice*, John J. Tillman; *Justice of the Peace*, Charles J. Chittenden; *Street Commissioner*, Frederick Thiede; *Director of the Poor*, John George Thon; *School Inspector*, Aaron Strong; *Aldermen*, Samuel Laurence, John Teeling, T. W. Bristow; *Constables*, Christopher Thon, Jr., John Loeckner, John M. Green.

1886

Mayor, J. H. Bishop; *City Clerk*, (new name) Charles H. Genthe, Jr.; *Treasurer*, Joseph Girardin; *Marshal*, (now elective) John Allen; *Justices of the Peace*, Sylvester Pray and M. Weatherwax; *Street Commissioner*, William Bolton; *Director of the Poor*, (no longer elected, Board of Poor Commissioners appointed); *School Inspectors*, C. W. Thomas (one year), William Gartner (two years), William Bolton (three years); *Aldermen-at-large*, (first) J. S. Trites (one year), Charles Schuffert (two years); *Aldermen*, George Stormont, Second Ward, James McCloy (to fill vacancy), Conrad Bigler, A. Tims; *Constables*, Christopher Thon, Jr., H. W. Pardo, John Loeckner; *Ward Supervisors* (first), (First Ward) Robert Leighton, (Second Ward) Dennis Sullivan, (Third Ward) James Cahil.

1887

Mayor, Fitzhugh A. Kirby; *City Clerk*, Charles H. Genthe, Jr.; *Treasurer*, Joseph Girardin; *Marshal*, Christopher Thon; *Justice of the Peace*, John Loeckner; *Street Commissioner*, John Bonehill; *School Inspector*, Charles W. Thomas; *Alderman-at-large*, John S. Trites; *Aldermen*, William H. Lacy, Conrad Bigler, Louis P. Miller; *Constables*, Martin Olms, John S. Brophay, John Pardo; *Ward Supervisors*, Robert W. Leighton, Dennis Sullivan, John H. Smith.

1888

Mayor, Dr. T. J. Langlois; *City Clerk*, Charles H. Genthe, Jr.; *Treasurer*, Wm. H. Denman; *Marshal*, Frank Wolcott; *Justice of the Peace*, Francis Murphy; *Street Commissioner*, William Watson; *School Inspectors*, William Gartner, Michael Ganley; *Alderman-at-large*, John Ginzel; *Aldermen*, Frank Marx, James McCloy, R. H. F. Walter; *Constables*, George Beebe, J. B. DeLisle, Wm. Stefke; *Ward Supervisors*, Richard Mason, Dennis Sullivan, John H. Smith.

1889

Mayor, Wm. Campbell; *City Clerk*, J. S. McGlaughlin, Jr.; *Treasurer*, Wm. H. Denman; *Marshal*, Christopher Thon; *Justice of the Peace*, A. S. Hunter; *Street Commissioner*, Wm. Watson; *School Inspector*, Joseph Girardin; *Alderman-at-large*, R. C. Conwell; *Aldermen*, William Gartner, Conrad Bigler, George Crassweller; *Constables*, John Weirich; Joseph B. DeLisle, William Donaldson; *Ward Supervisors*, Richard Mason, Dennis Sullivan, Charles G. Chittenden.

1890

Mayor, Wm. Campbell; *City Clerk*, J. S. McGlaughlin, Jr.; *Treasurer*, Charles Warmbier; *Marshal*, Daniel Campau; *Justices of the Peace*, Edward Beattie, Francis Murphy; *Street Commissioner*, Christopher Dolan; *School Inspectors*, Wm. Lawrence, T. T. Busha; *Alderman-at-large*, Frank Wolcott; *Aldermen*, R. C. Conwell and Frank Marx (to fill vacancy in First Ward), Michael Busha, Jeremiah Drennan, A. H. F. Walter; *Constables*, Wm. Olms, J. B. DeLisle, Wm. Donaldson; *Ward Supervisors*, Wm. Bolton, Dennis Sullivan, Charles G. Chittenden.

1891

Mayor, Wm. Campbell; *City Clerk*, Wm. Sullivan; *Treasurer*, Charles Warmbier; *Marshals*, Daniel Campau; *Justice of the Peace*, Newton Tewksbury; *Street Commissioner*, Charles Marquardt; *School Inspector*, Sylvester Pray; *Alderman-at-large*, Joseph Cramer; *Aldermen*, A. B. Clark, Conrad Bigler, Wm. Walther; *Constables*, Henry Boehme, Joseph B. DeLisle, Edward Thiede; *Ward Supervisors*, Henry Roehrig, Michael Quinnan, Ezra Guilfoil.

1892

Mayor, Daniel Campau; *City Clerk*, Wm. Sullivan; *Treasurer*, Theodore Megges; *Marshal*, Francis Murphy; *Justice of the Peace*, Charles Wilkes; *Street Commissioner*, Frank Loranger; *School Inspector*, Henry Genthe; *Alderman-at-large*, Wm. Spears; *Aldermen*, Frank Wolcott, Jeremiah Drennan, R. H. F. Walter; *Constables*, Albert Swantush, J. B. DeLisle, Louis Asmus; *Ward Supervisors*, Henry Roehrig, Michael Quinnan, E. J. Guilfoil.

1893

Mayor, E. N. Clark; *City Clerk*, Fred S. Johnson; *Treasurer*, Theodore Megges; *Marshal*, Reno Thon; *Justice of the Peace*, Francis Murphy; *Street Commissioner*, Fred Thiede; *School Inspector*, George Crassweller; *Alderman-at-large*, J. S. Trites; *Aldermen*, John C. Nellis, August Tacke, James LeBar; *Constables*, Albert Swantush, J. B. DeLisle,

Edward Thiede; *Ward Supervisors*, Charles Schuffert, M. Quinnan, Ezra Guilfoil.

1894

Mayor, E. N. Clark; *City Clerk*, Fred S. Johnson; *Treasurer*, Fred Ginzel; *Marshal*, Reno Thon; *Justice of the Peace*, H. A. Clements; *Street Commissioner*, F. Thiede; *School Inspector*, H. McAllister; *Aldermen-at-large*, Albert Heide, Charles Baisley; *Aldermen*, W. W. Bishop, W. J. Gorman, Robert Tims; *Constables*, E. N. Baisley, J. B. De Lisle, Louis Asmus; *Ward Supervisors*, J. R. Haven, M. Quinnan, W. Benjamin.

1895

Mayor, Dr. Walter C. Lambert; *City Clerk*, Edward Bryan; *Treasurer*, Fred Ginzel; *Marshal*, Reno Thon; *Justice of the Peace*, Newton Tewksbury; *Street Commissioner*, Charles Marquardt; *School Inspector*, Sylvester Pray; *Alderman-at-large*, C. E. Baisley; *Aldermen*, John Desmond, August Tacke, J. J. Kreger; *Constables*, Archibald Hunter, J. B. DeLisle, Edward Thiede; *Ward Supervisors*, Joseph Cramer, Theodore Megges, C. G. Chittenden.

1896

Mayor, Dr. W. C. Lambert; *City Clerk*, Edward Bryan; *Treasurer*, Fred Ginzel; *Marshal*, (now appointed); *Justices of the Peace*, Newton Tewksbury, Hiram Clements; *Street Commissioner*, Christian Marquardt; *School Inspector*, Sylvester Pray; *Alderman-at-large*, (abolished); *Aldermen*, W. W. Bishop, Wm. Kiley, Henry Maloch; *Constables*, A. S. Hunter, J. B. De Lisle, Louis Asmus; *Ward Supervisors*, Joseph Cramer, Theodore Megges, Ezra Guilfoil.

1897

Mayor, Dr. W. C. Lambert; *City Clerk*, C. J. Schweiss; *Treasurer*, Henry Roehrig; *Justice of the Peace*, J. B. DeLisle; *Street Commissioner*, (appointed henceforth); *Aldermen*, Fred Gilstorf, William Gorman, John J. Kreger; *Constables*, Archibald Hunter, William Dinges, William Nickle; *Ward Supervisors*, Frank Nellis, Theodore Megges, Ezra Guilfoil.

1898

Mayor, William Gartner; *City Clerk*, Charles Schweiss; *Treasurer*, Henry Roehrig; *Justice of the Peace*, Christian Thiede; *Aldermen*, Everett Clark, William Kiley, Henry Maloch; *Constables*, Archibald Hunter, William Riley, Fred Asmus; *Ward Supervisors*, Joseph Cramer, Theodore Megges, Louis Pernot.

1899

Mayor, Henry Roehrig; *City Clerk*, Edward Stieler; *Treasurer*, Charles J. Schweiss; *Justice of the Peace*, (elected biennially); *Aldermen*, Frank Walsh, William Gorman, William Lorenz; *Constables*, Archibald Hunter, Cornelius Springstead, Albert Yops; *Ward Supervisors*, Richard Lynch, Theodore Megges, Louis Pernot.

1900

Mayor, Henry Roehrig; *City Clerk*, Edward Stieler; *Treasurer*, Charles J. Schweiss; *Justice of the Peace*, Edward Beattie; *Aldermen*, A. E. Baisley, William Kiley, John S. Liddle; *Constables*, A. S. Hunter, Cornelius Springstead, Albert Yops; *Ward Supervisors*, Richard Lynch, Theodore Megges, Louis Pernot.

1901

Mayor, William Campbell; *City Clerk*, Henry O. Maloch; *Treasurer*, Elton R. Nellis; *Aldermen*, Frank Walsh, Frank J. Murphy, William Lorenz; *Constables*, Archibald Hunter, Daniel Haight, Albert Yops; *Ward Supervisors*, Richard Lynch, Theodore Megges, Charles Loranger.

1902

Mayor, W. W. Bishop; *City Clerk*, Henry O. Maloch; *Treasurer*, Elton Nellis; *Justice of the Peace*, Christian Thiede; *Aldermen*, E. P. Smith, William Kiley, John C. Liddle, Jr.; *Constables*, Archibald Hunter, William Dinges, Albert Yops; *Ward Supervisors*, Richard J. Lynch, Theodore Megges, Albert King.

1903

Mayor, Elton R. Nellis; *City Clerk*, Henry Maloch; *Treasurer*, Charles J. Schweiss; *Aldermen*, Joseph Cramer, William J. Gorman, Abel Loranger; *Constables*, A. S. Hunter, William Dinges, Albert Yops; *Ward Supervisors*, Richard Lynch, Theodore Megges, Albert King.

1904

Mayor, Elton R. Nellis; *City Clerk*, Henry Maloch; *Treasurer*, Charles J. Schweiss; *Justice of the Peace*, Edward Beattie; *Aldermen*, E. P. Smith, John Eilbert, Frank J. Murphy, John G. Liddle, Charles Woodward (First two elected for the *new Fourth Ward*); *Constables*, Philip Payette, A. S. Hunter, Jim Calkins, Albert Walter; *Ward Supervisors*, Phineas Atchison, Theodore Megges, Albert King, Louis Pernot (Fourth Ward).

1905

Mayor, Jerome H. Bishop; *City Clerk*, Henry Maloch; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *Aldermen*, Arthur Baisley, Joseph Cramer, Henry Steinhauer, Charles Woodward; *Constables*, Peter R. Willis, A. A.

Hunter, Dan Massei, Albert Walter; *Ward Supervisors*, Phineas Atchison, Theodore Megges, Frank Loeckner, Louis Pernot.

1906

Mayor, Jerome H. Bishop; *City Clerk*, James G. Pinson; *Treasurer*, James Headman; *Justice of the Peace*, Christian R. Thiede; *Aldermen*, E. P. Smith, Louis W. Behm, Frank Murphy, Charles Barnosky; *Constables*, Arthur Green, A. S. Hunter, Daniel Massei, Albert Walters; *Ward Supervisors*, Phineas Atchison, Theodore Megges, Frank Loeckner, Jay C. Edwards.

1907

Mayor, Jerome H. Bishop; *City Clerk*, James G. Pinson; *Treasurer*, Edward A. George; *Alderman-at-large* (re-instated), Norman A. Coan, Henry O. Maloch; *Aldermen*, Arthur Baisley, Joseph Cramer, James Ragen, Charles Woodward; *Constables*, John Denman, A. S. Hunter, Daniel Massei, Albert Walters; *Ward Supervisors*, Phineas Atchison, Theodore Megges, Frank Loeckner, Jay C. Edwards.

1908

Mayor, J. S. McGlaughlin; *City Clerk*, James F. Pinson; *Treasurer*, Edward George; *Justice of the Peace*, Edward Beattie; *Alderman-at-large*, Henry Maloch; *Aldermen*, John Youd, Louis W. Behm, Frank J. Murphy, Charles L. Barnosky; *Constables*, John A. Denman, William Gee, Christian McGuckin, Albert Walter; *Ward Supervisors*, Phineas Atchison, Theodore Megges, Frank Loeckner, Jay C. Edwards.

1909

Mayor, James S. McGlaughlin; *City Clerk*, John L. Sullivan; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *Justice of the Peace*, Christian Thiede; *Alderman-at-large*, Peter Schartz; *Aldermen*, Norman Coan, Joseph Cramer, James Ragen, Nicholas Haubrick; *Constables*, John Denman, Christian Thon, Cyrus Grasley, Albert Walters; *Ward Supervisors*, P. E. Atchison, Theodore Megges, Frank Loeckner, Louis Pernot.

1910

Mayor, J. S. McGlaughlin; *City Clerk*, John Sullivan; *Treasurer*, James Headman; *Justice of the Peace*, Henry O. Maloch; *Alderman-at-large*, Roy Coomer; *Aldermen*, John Youd, William Gartner, Frank Murphy, Charles Barnosky; *Constables*, John Denman, Christian Thon, Cyrus Grasley, Albert Walters; *Ward Supervisors*, P. E. Atchison, Theodore Megges, Frank Loeckner, Louis Pernot.

1911

First Commission Government. *Mayor*, Charles H. Marr; *City Clerk*, John L. Sullivan; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *Commissioners*,

Thomas Challenger (Superintendent of Finance Revenue), Hubert S. Amiot (Superintendent of Public Safety), Carl Schroeder (Superintendent of Streets), Charles Gartner (Superintendent of Municipal Service).

1912

Mayor, Charles H. Marr; *City Clerk*, John L. Sullivan; *Treasurer*, James Headman, *Justice of the Peace*, Edward Beattie; *Constables*, Luther Grasley, Carl Juchartz, William LaBeau, James Walker; *Commissioners*, Thomas Challenger (Superintendent of Finance Revenue), Hubert S. Amiot (Superintendent of Public Safety), Carl Schroeder (Superintendent of Streets), Charles Gartner (Superintendent of Municipal Service).

1913

All offices remained the same. Election biennially.

1914

Mayor, Charles H. Marr; *City Clerk*, Charles H. Block; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *Justice of the Peace*, Henry O. Maloch; *Constables*, James Bowlsby, Luther Grasley, Carl Juchartz, Charles Sanders; *Commissioners*, Hubert S. Amiot, Charles Gartner, Carl F. Schroeder, Edward Stieler.

1915

Same as 1914.

1916

Mayor, Walter C. Lambert; *City Clerk*, Charles H. Block; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *Justice of the Peace*, Edward Beattie; *Constables*, Luther Grasley, John A. (Jack) McCleary, Charles Sanders, Edward Pieper; *Commissioners*, Hubert S. Amiot, Thomas E. Benjamin, Edward C. Bryan, Joseph Cramer.

1917

Same as 1916.

1918

Mayor, Walter C. Lambert; *City Clerk*, Charles H. Block; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *Justice of the Peace*, Henry O. Maloch; *Constables*, Luther Grasley, John A. (Jack) McCleary, Charles Sanders, John Smeaton; *Commissioners*, Thomas E. Benjamin, W. Leo Cahalan, Chester Sutliff, Robert W. Smith.

1919

Same as 1918.

1920

Mayor, Allan S. McClenahan; *City Clerk*, Edward C. Bryan; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *Justice of the Peace*, Edward Beattie; *Con-*

stables, Albert Walters, Charles Sanders, Albert Schave, George Davis; *Commissioners*, John Clements, A. Lincoln Gettleman, John Murphy, Herman Turski.

1921

Same as 1920.

1922

Mayor, Hubert S. Amiot; *City Clerk*, Edward C. Bryan; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Constables*, George Davis, Charles Sanders, Jack McCleary, Albert Schave; *Commissioners*, Wm. C. Maas, Stewart W. Baxter, John F. Murphy, Ira Kreger.

1923

Same as 1922.

1924

Mayor, Hubert S. Amiot; *City Clerk*, Edward C. Bryan; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *Justice of the Peace*, Edward Beattie; *Constables*, George Davis, Jess Calkins, Jack McCleary, Charles Sanders; *Commissioners*, Stewart W. Baxter, Ira J. Kreger, Ernest B. Labadie, William A. Yops.

1925

Same as 1924.

1926

First Councilmanic Government. *Mayor*, Hubert S. Amiot; *City Clerk*, Edward C. Bryan; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *City Assessor*, (first) Joseph Cramer; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Constables*, Jesse D. Calkins, Jack McCleary; *Councilmen*, John Clements, Ernest Labadie, George K. Mollno, Joseph Smith (two year terms), Wm. A. Yops, Clifford J. Drouillard (one year terms).

1927

Mayor, Hubert S. Amiot; *City Clerk*, Edward C. Bryan; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *City Assessor*, Joseph Cramer; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Constables*, Jesse D. Calkins, Jack McCleary; *Councilmen*, (elected to replace expiring terms), Bud Lerew, Joseph Smith, Wm. Yops, (two year terms).

1928

Mayor, Ira J. Kreger; *City Clerk*, Edward C. Bryan; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *City Assessor*, Joseph Cramer; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, (first) Herbert Schendel; *Councilmen*, William Engfehr, George Mollno, John Clements.

1929

Mayor, Ira J. Kreger; *City Clerk*, E. C. Bryan; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *City Assessor*, Joseph Cramer; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Herbert Schendel; *Constables*, Jesse D. Calkins, Jack McCleary; *Councilmen*, Bud Lerew, Conrad P. Kreger, Joseph A. Smith.

1930

Mayor, Ira J. Kreger; *City Clerk*, Edward C. Bryan; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *City Assessor*, Joseph Cramer; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Herbert Schendel; *Constables*, Jesse Calkins, James Bowlsby; *Councilmen*, John Clements, Wm. F. Engfehr, Edward A. George.

1931

Mayor, Ira J. Kreger (until April 30), Joseph Smith, May 1 through April 30, 1932; *City Clerk*, Edward C. Bryan; *Treasurer*, James C. Headman; *Assessor*, Joseph Cramer; *Constables*, Jesse D. Calkins, James Bowlsby; *Councilmen*, Joseph Smith, Howard Baxter, Stanley Singer.

1932

Mayor, Arthur W. Edwards (until death, August 21, 1932), John Clements (August 1932-April 1933); *City Clerk*, Lawrence LaCourse; *Treasurer*, John T. McWhirter; *City Assessor*, Wm. A. McClenahan; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Herbert Schendel; *Constables*, John Martin, Kenneth Kane; *Councilmen*, H. L. Blomshield, John Clements, Edmund Kurzatkowski.

1933

Mayor, Thomas H. Davis; *City Clerk*, Lawrence LaCourse; *Treasurer*, John T. McWhirter; *Assessor*, Wm. A. McClenahan; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Herbert Schendel; *Constables*, John Martin, Kenneth Kane; *Councilmen*, Ford Wagar, Arthur Gobb, Howard L. Baxter.

1934

Mayor, Thomas H. Davis; *City Clerk*, Lawrence LaCourse; *Treasurer*, John T. McWhirter; *Assessor*, Wm. A. McClenahan; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Herbert Schendel; *Constables*, Kenneth Kane, Jack Peters; *Councilmen*, John Clements, John J. Wagner, H. L. Blomshield.

1935

Mayor, Thomas H. Davis; *City Clerk*, Lawrence LaCourse; *Treasurer*, John T. McWhirter; *Assessor*, Wm. A. McClenahan; *Justice of*

the Peace, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Herbert Schendel; *Constables*, Kenneth Kane, Jack Peters; *Councilmen*, Louis Behm, James H. Mason, Ford Wagar.

1936

Mayor, Thomas H. Davis; *City Clerk*, Lawrence LaCourse; *Treasurer*, John T. McWhirter; *Assessor*, Edward W. Kane; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Gerald Gass; *Constables*, Kenneth Kane, Arthur S. Decker; *Councilmen*, George C. Behm, H. L. Blomshield, John J. Wagner.

1937

Mayor, Thomas H. Davis; *City Clerk*, Lawrence LaCourse; *Treasurer*, John T. McWhirter; *Assessor*, Edward Kane; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Gerald Gass; *Constables*, Kenneth Kane, Arthur S. Decker; *Councilmen*, Louis W. Behm, James H. Mason, John C. Kreger.

1938

Mayor, Thomas H. Davis; *City Clerk*, Lawrence LaCourse; *Treasurer*, John T. McWhirter; *Assessor*, Edward Kane; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Gerald Gass; *Constables*, Arthur Decker, George H. Watts, Jr.; *Councilmen*, George Behm, Louis Brohl, Sr., Ford Wagar.

1939

Mayor, Thomas H. Davis; *City Clerk*, Lawrence LaCourse; *Treasurer*, John T. McWhirter; *Assessor*, Edward Kane; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Gerald Gass; *Constables*, Arthur Decker, Martin Bakhaus; *Councilmen*, Louis W. Behm, James Mason, John J. Wagner.

1940

Mayor, Louis H. Behm; *City Clerk*, Lawrence LaCourse; *Treasurer*, John T. McWhirter; *Assessor*, Edward Kane; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Arthur S. Decker; *Constables*, Ernest B. Clemens, Russell Hands; *Councilmen*, George C. Behm, Louis Brohl, Sr., Ford Wagar.

1941

Mayor, Louis H. Behm; *City Clerk*, Lawrence LaCourse; *Treasurer*, John T. McWhirter; *Assessor*, Edward Kane; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Arthur S. Decker; *Constables*, Ernest B. Clemens, Russell Hands; *Councilmen*, James H. Mason, Ernest B. Schultz, Clifford T. Burke.

1942

Mayor, Louis Behm; *City Clerk*, Lawrence LaCourse; *Treasurer*, Marian Behm (acting until term expired, April 1943) *Assessor*, Edward Kane; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Arthur S. Decker; *Constables*, Ernest B. Clemens, Elmer Ducharme; *Councilmen*, George Behm, Louis Brohl, Sr., Ford Wagar.

1943

Mayor, Louis Behm; *City Clerk*, Lawrence LaCourse; *Treasurer*, Ira J. Kreger; *Assessor*, Edward Kane; *Justice of the Peace*, Roy Coomer; *Associate Justice*, Arthur S. Decker; *Constables*, Ernest B. Clemens, Elmer Ducharme; *Councilmen*, Clifford T. Burke, James H. Mason, Ernest B. Schultz.

1944

Mayor, Louis Behm; *City Clerk*, Ford Wagar; *Treasurer*, Ira J. Kreger; *Assessor*, Edward Kane; *Justice of the Peace*, Arthur S. Decker; *Associate Justice*, Guy E. Murphy; *Constables*, Ernest B. Clemens, Elmer Ducharme; *Councilmen*, Louis Brohl, Sr., Harry Rouse, Richard T. Kelly.

1945

Mayor, Louis Behm; *City Clerk*, Ford Wagar; *Treasurer*, Ira J. Kreger; *Assessor*, Edward Kane; *Justice of the Peace*, Arthur S. Decker; *Associate Justice*, Guy E. Murphy; *Constables*, Elmer Ducharme, Walter J. Zukowski; *Councilmen*, George C. Behm, Clifford Burke, James H. Mason (died during term).

1946

Mayor, Louis Brohl, Sr.; *City Clerk*, Ford Wagar; *Treasurer*, Ira J. Kreger; *Assessor*, Edward Kane; *Justice of the Peace*, Arthur S. Decker; *Associate Justice*, Guy E. Murphy; *Constables*, Stanley Groat, Joseph Sutka; *Councilmen*, Richard T. Kelly, Harry G. Rouse, Ernest B. Schultz.

1947

Mayor, Louis Brohl, Sr.; *City Clerk*, Ford Wagar; *Treasurer*, Ira J. Kreger; *Assessor*, Edward Kane; *Justice of the Peace*, Arthur S. Decker; *Associate Justice*, Guy E. Murphy; *Constables*, Stanley Groat, Joseph Sutka; *Councilmen*, Clifford T. Burke, John J. Faulder, George McEachran.

1948

Mayor, Louis Brohl, Sr.; *City Clerk*, Ford Wagar; *Treasurer*, Ira J. Kreger; *Assessor*, Edward Kane; *Justice of the Peace*, Arthur Decker; *Associate Justice*, William P. Littlewood; *Constables*, Stanley Groat,

Joseph Sutka; *Councilmen*, Linus Bloomfield, Richard T. Kelly, Harry Rouse.

1949

Mayor, Louis Brohl, Sr.; *City Clerk*, Ford Wagar; *Treasurer*, Ira J. Kreger; *Assessor*, Edward Kane, (resigns and Ernest Schultz appointed to finish term); *Justice of the Peace*, Arthur Decker; *Associate Justice*, William P. Littlewood; *Constables*, Stanley Groat, Joseph Sutka; *Councilmen*, Ernest Schultz, Clifford T. Burke, George E. McEachran, William Copeland appointed to fill unexpired term of Ernest Schultz.

1950

Mayor, William E. Kreger; *City Clerk*, Ford Wagar; *Treasurer*, Ira J. Kreger; *Assessor*, Ernest B. Schultz; *Justice of the Peace*, Arthur Decker; *Associate Justice*, Charles Hornauer; *Constables*, David Murphy, Joseph Sutka; *Councilmen*, Louis Brohl, Sr., Richard T. Kelly, Hilda Haynes (first woman to be elected to Wyandotte Council in its history), Stanley Groat, (one year term).

1951

Mayor, William E. Keger; *City Clerk*, Ford Wagar; *Treasurer*, Ira J. Kreger; *Assessor*, Ernest B. Schultz; *Justice of the Peace*, Arthur Decker; *Associate Justice*, Joseph Sutka; *Constables*, David Murphy, James Wilson, (appointed to fill unexpired term of Joseph Sutka); *Councilmen*, William Copeland, George McEachran, Linus Bloomfield.

1952

No election. Charter amendment placed election every two years to coincide with state and national election.

1953

Mayor, William E. Kreger; *City Clerk*, Ford Wagar; *Treasurer*, Ira J. Kreger; *Assessor*, Ernest B. Schultz; *Justice of the Peace*, Arthur Decker; *Associate Justice*, Joseph Sutka; *Constables*, Elmer Ducharme, Stanley Maciag; *Councilmen*, Richard T. Kelly, Louis Brohl, Sr., William Copeland, George McEachran, Hilda Haynes, Stanley Groat.

1954

No election—off year.

CHAPTER 7

CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS

"To have a fine home and family; to be recognized as a responsible citizen always ready to do my part for my city and country; to make my corner of the world a little better and happier because I lived in it; to love, honor, and serve my God as I hoped for His love and blessing."

Motto of Jerome Holland Bishop,
Civic Leader, Manufacturer, Philanthropist, and Schoolmaster of Wyandotte, Michigan

IN THE name of civilization the beauty of nature must inevitably be destroyed for the needs of man. Towering oaks and white-trunked birches must be cut down and transformed into houses and barns and fences; sedgy creeks and marshy lowlands must be filled with waste, slag, and cinders to support factories and stores; flowered dells must be plowed and planted with wheat and corn, cabbage and potatoes. Graceful deer must be replaced with less beautiful but more utilitarian creatures, pigs and cows and heavy fetlocked horses. This has been the history of earth since Adam and Eve forfeited the virginal beauty of nature in the Garden of Eden. So, too, was the lovely bit of wilderness that is now Wyandotte destroyed that men might earn their daily bread.

The banks of the river, which once afforded delightful stretches of sandy beach, reedy sanctuaries for wild fowl, and unobstructed vistas of blue water and Canadian shores, were ravaged by factories and made a dumping ground for their waste products. Woodland aisles and meandering creeks were transformed into Front Street and Biddle Avenue, Oak Street, and "The Urikee." Flowered dells were surveyed and plotted and cut into lots; patterned with shelters for men and cattle, and planted with vegetables.

Early Wyandotte was little different, no doubt, from hundreds of other small American towns of the nineteenth century. The streets were wide and tree lined, friendly thoroughfares during the daylight hours, but at night a black, uncharted wilderness where the wayfarer ran

the risk of stumbling over cows lying in his path, colliding with neighbor or stranger, or even walking into the river. Only the main street, Biddle Avenue, was lighted at intervals by kerosene lamps.

The roads were unpaved and, in the spring and fall, almost impassable because of the deep mud, which turned to warm, velvety dust under the summer sun, a luxurious carpet for the bare feet of children who must save their shoes for school days and Sundays.

Various kinds of vehicles traversed the streets: the light buggy of the doctor or smart, young bachelor; the larger surrey of the farmer or prosperous city dweller; the wagons carrying barrels of water from the mill to the villagers who were without wells or cisterns; the drays with their cargoes of lumber and beer and ice and, during a small-pox epidemic, the stark coffins of the dead; the wagons loaded with farm products; the caravans of the gypsies who, in the springtime, pitched their tents on Monguagon Creek near the "silver ribbon of the Dixie Road"; the rickety wagon of the rag peddler heralded by his tinny horn; and, during the winter months, the cutters and bob-sleds accompanied by their merry jingle of sleigh bells and scores of children who delighted in "hopping bobs."

The sides of the roads were bordered by deep ditches—miniature, brown rivers in April; scummy, green trickles in June; and great, weedy holes in July, places of concealment for innocent children playing hide-and-seek and, occasionally, for criminally inclined adults intent on assault or robbery. Through the weeds and beside the sidewalks, pigs rooted, cows and horses browsed, and chickens scratched and pecked. At street intersections, the ditches were bridged by crosswalks of wood, one of the purposes of which was to make it unnecessary to wade through ditchwater to reach the muddy road on the other side. They also served as gathering places for the adolescent males of the town, who congregated there evenings to discuss the "birds and the bees," the latest prize fight or foot race, and to sing the song hits of the period. (Older males behaved similarly in corner saloons, and, outside of them, when they had finished drinking, lolled against the buildings to ogle passing women and sometimes to make insulting remarks. At the city hall, where the fire engine was housed, the old men of the town gathered to chew tobacco, inhale snuff, and talk about the political situation and the good old days when snow drifts were six feet deep and the solid ice of the river made a safe highway for visiting Americans and "Canucks.")

The sidewalks were planks, board walks, or cindered paths, most unlike the "forest's ferny floor," especially when the cinders were freshly

laid and as large as ostrich eggs, or the boards of the wooden walks loose or broken and the incentive to much profanity.

Seated on the bank of the river like a giant, motherly goddess was the Eureka Iron Works extending its benign influence both to the townspeople, whom it fed and sheltered, and to passing ships, which it helped by the fiery glow from the blast furnaces to steer the straight course indicated by the Grassy Island and Mama Juda lighthouses.

To the westward and northward of the Eureka Iron Works a church or two raised its white steeple heavenward pointing the way to spiritual salvation, and quietly withdrawn from the main thoroughfare stood the schoolhouse, shabby and humble as the barefooted children who attended it.

Small stores, some of them one- and two-story frame buildings, others built more solidly of brick, lined Biddle Avenue and spilled their wares into the street: wash-tubs and wash-boards, sickles and scythes, rakes, hoes, harnesses, strings of sleighbells, buggy whips, sacks of chicken feed, for the convenience of the passerby who might be tempted to purchase them. A few grocery stores and saloons and a blacksmith shop or two were located on residential streets.

Dividing the public thoroughfare from private property of some of the townspeople were high fences of weather-beaten wood, boards from four to six inches wide nailed at horizontal intervals to equally weather-beaten posts. Behind the fences enclosing the property of Poles and some of the Germans, vegetable gardens of corn and potatoes, beets and cabbages, and tall, golden-headed sunflowers, the seeds of which were used as feed for the chickens, claimed every inch of available ground except for a narrow margin close to the house where flowers were planted. The lots of the "bon tons," the Irish, the French, and the English were usually unfenced and planted with vegetables only at the rear; the ground at the front and sides of the houses was planted with grass and occasionally was graced with statuary of iron: deer, dogs, or a little black standard bearer in an attitude of aggressive patriotism.

Most of Wyandotte's houses were homely one- or two-story buildings of haphazard architecture, usually with a lean-to kitchen, little squinting windows, and bases messily entrenched in boxed-in earth to keep the cold winds from floors warmed only by the daytime fire in the kitchen stove.

At the side of the house, in front of it, or at the back, as the whim of the owner dictated, stood the well topped by a square of weather-beaten boards and the hooked stick for lowering and drawing up a

bucket. After the town had been piped for river water, the picturesque well was replaced by the unsightly "penstock," which consisted of a few lengths of pipe with a faucet attached. The pipe was protected by an enclosure of unpainted boards, and in cold weather was swathed with straw and rags to keep the water from freezing, thereby presenting the appearance of a headless scarecrow.

Behind some of the houses, a grape arbor was built, which provided a comfortable laundry on hot summer days when the kitchen was made an inferno by the fire in the cook stove and the boiler of steaming water on top of it. The arbors were furnished with benches and, on hot summer Sundays and evenings when the day's work was done, friends and neighbors gathered there to discuss the latest christening or wedding or wake, and to exchange recipes for yeast and black puddings and soft soap or remedies for family illnesses: onion syrup, goose grease ointment, poultices of mustard or linseed.

At the back of the house, too, or located where it would be most convenient to the rear entrance, stood the wood pile, timber from neighboring farms sawed and split into stove lengths.

At the rear of the lots were located the outbuildings: the barn, the pig-sty, the chicken coops, the little house with the small crescent or round openings near the roof, which provided easy entrance to hordes of wasps that built their papier mache nests over the uneasy heads of youthful occupants.

Behind the lots were the alleys reeking with manure piles, bloated dead dogs, maggoty chickens, and occasionally even a horse or pig. There was a dearth of garbage, ashes, and tin cans of a later day, however, since the many pigs, chickens, and dogs within the town's boundaries consumed the scanty refuse from the table; the ashes were used by individual families in the manufacture of soft-soap (the cast-iron soft-soap pot equipped with legs to permit the building of a fire beneath it was a familiar fixture of pioneer back yards), or turned over to the "Ashery" located near the southern boundary of the town in exchange for a bar of soap; and canned goods were unknown.

The interiors of the houses presented few comforts. The "front room" was icy cold and uninhabitable during the winter months except for the corpse which sooner or later rested for the prescribed three days and nights within its walls. On the floor was usually a carpet made of rags sewed by the patient fingers of the housewife and woven by an enterprising weaver of the town. A small table, a chair or two, perhaps a

spittoon of tin, brass, or flowered china, a few pictures or a mirror, and an oil lamp completed its furnishings except for the lace curtains flaunted by the housewife with social aspirations.

The bedrooms were scarcely more cheerful than the "front room" except that the feather ticks and pillows and winter quilts made of small pieces of wool salvaged from grandfather's coat or trousers and mother's worsted dresses offered warmth and protection from the chilly atmosphere.

The kitchen was usually the largest room in the house. The floor was of unpainted, pine boards scrubbed once or twice a week with a stiff brush and soft-soap to a pale, soft yellow. A stove, red-faced from constant exertion five days a week but polished to a gleaming black on Saturdays, sat importantly where its heat would be diffused over the greatest area. Beside it or behind it was the wood-box, receptacle for the sweet smelling, fluted wood, which fed the fire. A bench equipped with a pail of water, a dipper, a wash-basin, a bar of soap, and a comb stood near the door and served for every day toiletries; on Saturdays a wooden wash-tub was set beside the stove to ensure a more thorough cleansing for the Lord's Day. A plain deal or oak table and a few chairs completed the furnishings of the room except for the kerosene lamp set in a bracket nailed to door or window casing or merely placed where the light was most needed and out of reach of venturesome, youthful fingers.

The kitchen of pioneer days was the heart of the house. It was there that the family washing and ironing were done; it was there that the bread was baked, the meat roasted, the fruit and vegetables preserved for family consumption. It was there the cabbage was cut and salted and pounded into sauer kraut; it was there the pig lately occupying the sty in the back yard was cut into pork chops and spare ribs and its fat rendered into lard. There, too, the swill for the pig was cooked before its demise; the corn was shelled and, during winter months, warmed in the oven before being fed to the chickens. It was there that tramps were fed on Sunday mornings "when pa was home." (On weekdays the cautious housewife would not allow them to enter the house.) It was there, too, the wandering gypsy told one's fortune—after the spoons, knives, forks, and grandma's glasses had been removed from sight—in exchange for an egg. It was there on the kitchen table festive dinners were prepared and served; there lessons were learned; father's earnings were budgeted; the new-born baby was bathed; there the tumor was removed from grandma while the terrified family cowered in an adjoining room. In the kitch-

en the jigs and reels were danced on gala occasions; there the watchers at the wake sat and smoked their clay pipes and ate and drank and told stories until the dawn of a new day sent them back to the mill or the wash-tub, happy that their work and their troubles were not yet over as were those of the "poor soul" in the "front room."

The shawled women and bearded men of the Wyandotte of 100 years ago had few comforts and many problems, both individual and community, to solve; big obstacles to surmount; but the city offered unlimited opportunity for achievement and improvement.

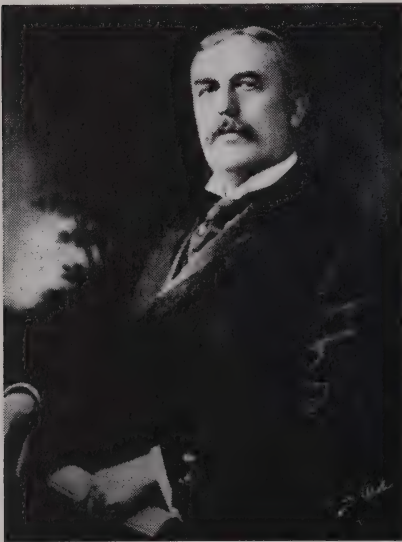
The panorama of the village described by Winifred Stoddard LeBar was the picture of the city as it existed between the years 1854-1880. During those years the citizens had been too busy building the town and establishing the essentials of governmental organization to give attention to the improvements and comforts of community life. Inspiration and adult self-consciousness, like a full dress suit, or first party dress for the adolescent boy and girl, became vocal with the building of the first City Hall in 1880. From these council chambers resolutions and petitions were tackled with vigor, although oftentimes fraught with misunderstanding and confusion. During the ensuing decades to the present time, better street conditions, protective health measures, the luxuries of water, gas and light, business and public welfare improvements, recreational and cultural interests have been accomplished. However, the government did not achieve the better city single handed; many methods and purposes of diverse agencies have been molded into a continuing cooperative force for civic growth and improvements.

Individual initiative has played an important role. Eber Ward and his Eureka Iron Company expressed ideas of a master planner in laying out the city in a definite American pattern and making provisions for schools, churches and parks.

John S. Van Alstyne, energetic and progressive, initiated many new enterprises and activities leaving his mark upon the land by establishing a bank, founding the Masonic Lodge and sponsoring the boring for gas as a cheap fuel for the Eureka Iron and Steel, hoping thereby to secure full employment for the citizens. With the welfare of the city at heart, he leased during the panic of 1873 a large amount of Eureka Company land to be placed at the disposal of the community in order that the hard pressed citizens could raise their own vegetables.

Jerome Holland Bishop, school master, manufacturer, and philanthro-

pist, like his predecessors, Eber Ward and John Van Alstyne, identified himself with the advancement of the city. With the increasing success of his business he shared this good fortune with the citizens of Wyandotte. It is to Jerome Holland Bishop that the city owes its first public Library. He persuaded the Board of Education and the city to provide a room and a librarian upon the agreement that he would match appropriations of funds with the city. This program continued for many years. For many years he carried the poor list of the town without the beneficiaries' knowing the source of their incomes, the amounts being noted upon his business ledgers. A fine oarsman, he was an ardent champion and strong financial backer of the Wyandotte Ten-oared Barge, and



Jerome Holland Bishop

the later four-oared crew. Believing firmly that the best way to Americanize the foreigner was to put him in a good American home, he became interested in building homes that would encourage them to accept and practice the American standards of living and at the same time give considerations to their racial habits and limited means. They liked his houses and trusted him completely so that many came to him and asked him to build houses for their friends and relatives. He was content with reasonable profits and would have nothing to do with real estate subdivisions.

The trust and devotion which the pioneers felt for Mr. Bishop climaxed in his election of five terms as Mayor: in 1885, 1886, and again in 1905, 1906, 1907. Under his administrative guidance, sewers and paving and organization of a Police Commission were accomplished. A man of exceptional educational background, a student of the classics, and excellent in public speaking, he delighted in taking part in Lyceum debates and political discussions. He won a reputation as a forceful after-dinner speaker and was in demand at banquets, public meetings, and rallies.

Last, but not the least of his many gifts of leadership was the building of the First Congregational Church.

On the honor role of Wyandotte's prominent pioneer leaders are

placed the names of John S. Van Alstyne—the father of the city—an astute business man, impregably honest and of high integrity of purpose, and Jerome Holland Bishop, a man of great intellectuality and humanitarianism.

Right-living and enthusiastic interest in material and social affairs kept John Van Alstyne always alert and vigorous in appearance. With the spirit of perennial youth, he found life worth living in Wyandotte—a living which he did not forget to share with future generations. For in the evening of his life he took his pen in hand and left historic notes in “Reminiscences of Early Wyandotte” and the story of the “Iron Industry” for the benefit of coming generations, whose prosperity and good living he believed, as all pioneers do, profit from the past.

As living memorials, there are: the first street in town, formerly Front Street, renamed in his honor Van Alstyne Blvd.; and the Wyandotte Savings Bank, which after eighty-three years is still a bulwark of business integrity, commanding unqualified confidence under the guidance of his son, Fred E. Van Alstyne.

The passing of Mr. Bishop in 1928 saw his heart's desire answered in the ancient prayer “the work of my hands, establish thou.” The home he built with such care and thought for the future now serves as the City Hall. The surrounding land, once his, is now a beautiful park which bears his name and offers fresh air, recreation and access to the river for young and old. The church he gave so willingly continues to meet the religious needs of a growing community. His battles were with corruption and inertia; his motto, progress; and his success, the achievement of his goals—“to have a fine home and family.”

Another giant leader in the development of the city has been Captain John B. Ford, who came to the “dreariest town in Michigan” in the 1890's and lifted it from its death throes, after the Eureka Iron Company had failed, to a place in the sun in national economics. He developed resources that engaged the attention of the world. Members of the Ford family have contributed generously to the city in gifts of the Wyandotte General Hospital, the Bacon Memorial Public Library building, gifts of land for civic projects and liberal contributions to the religious development of the city.

The character of John B. Ford, who at the age of 80 with faith, determination and perseverance was able to contribute to the national scene a mighty industry and who firmly believed “that the hands of the employer and the employee should always be united in friendly clasp,” should serve as a worthy inspiration to the young who may look to old

age with despair and to the modern group of efficiency experts who vision retirement plans and disrepute for those who pass the age of forty.

The Kirby Brothers, Frank E. and Fitzhugh, better known as "Joe," added a touch of genius to the well being of the community from 1872-1920. Under the guidance of these men who were acknowledged as being twenty-five years ahead of their times, Wyandotte prospered through fruitful years of shipbuilding. "Joe" Kirby established his home in Wyandotte, was elected the city's Mayor in 1887, and was identified in the shipyards as Superintendent. Fitzhugh's home in Wyandotte stood at the corner of Superior and Biddle Avenue, the present location of the Ford garage. In this home Wyandotters observed the workings of an inventive and mechanical mind. It became a laboratory for all kinds of contraptions which constantly made news—automatically controlled furnace, clothes rack dryer, smoke consuming furnace, a silencer for Healy motors and numerous other gadgets and inventions.

A man endowed with a zest for living, he brought color to the drab industrialism of the town. His robust humor and ability for a "well-turned practical" joke kept the citizens in a constant state of excitement. No one ever knew the moment when Joe's well-trained trotting horses might be seen winding their way among the machinery at the Eureka Iron and Steel, catching the breath of the stunned workmen, or when his carriage and horse might race in excessive speed from Northline to the Shipyards just for the thrill of it all!—and then to stop instantly "on a dime" at the mere whisper of Whoa or the touch of a whip. The possession and racing of fine horses was Joe Kirby's favorite diversion. The trotting horse weathervane on the flag pole at the City Hall is a memorial to his greatest love—horses. It used to rest on the top of his barn. Many times customers in stores were startled when he would drive his horses over the threshold of a store and do his buying without dismounting, and almost without destroying the placid order of the business house.

It was Joe Kirby who connived to secure water for the city after ignorance dominated the reason of the citizens. He knew what was best for Wyandotte and did not hesitate to employ several hundred out of the city workers for six months on ship projects in order to secure their votes for water. When road conditions became intolerable on Biddle Avenue after the dirt had worn off the slag foundation, Joe Kirby had sawdust drawn from the shipyards as covering replacement. Some have dubbed him "Wyandotte's first good roads man." Endowed with a rugged individualistic disposition, he expressed his desires and wishes freely for what he considered enhanced the city's desirability.

Frank E. Kirby never lived in Wyandotte, making his home in Detroit, yet his character and genius added his name to the glorious page of world citizens. Today the name of Frank E. Kirby is inscribed on the memorial arch at Greenfield Village along with Thomas Edison's as one of America's outstanding engineering geniuses.

Striding the muddy streets, seeking ways to effect a better city in communal effort with the giant leaders, were the pioneer settlers. They were a rough and "hard to bluff" group. It takes toughness and brawn to carve a village out of the wilderness, to turn the machinery of heavy industry, to pound planks for sidewalks and crush stone for roads, to lay keels for ships, to dig sewers and water mains, to construct street car tracks, and to erect buildings. It has been natural under these circumstances to end the arduous tasks of the day's work well done with a glass of foaming brew in the comradeship of the nearest tavern; it has been natural for primitiveness to hover in the wake of such adventures; but it has also been the American pattern for the ministers and women to follow the men in their conquest of new cities and villages and to staunchly defend civilization from becoming a lost cause.

The ministers and priests expounded from the pulpits the works and teachings of the Christian life, pointing out the avenues of sin along the darkened streets. The women kept the home fires burning, and worked for beauty and culture in the shadows of the factories' grime. No weaklings, the women were as ready to share the burdens of heavier tasks of the village growth as were the women in the history books. It was not uncommon for women living on the farms in west Wyandotte to walk several miles to town for weekly provisions; for children to follow the example of Ellen Mohring, the daughter of Fred Mohring, living on Northline Road, who had to kill a chicken, dress it and walk into town seeking a purchaser in a local market before she could take a music lesson. On her salesmanship depended whether she took a lesson—no sale, no lesson. Women did not hesitate to carry water from the river or the Eureka Iron Works in order to wash their clothes. Widows did not wait until the twentieth century for widows' pensions, neither did they burden the townspeople with their woes and concerns for children's hungry mouths. Instead, they put their sturdy shoulders to the tasks of running butcher shops, bakeries, and milk routes. It was a regular sight to see Mrs. August Tacke hoist a side of beef in the Tacke Meat Shop; for Mrs. George Pearce to lift heavy sacks of flour in the early morning hours in her bake shop on First street, preparatory to rushing hot bread to the counter daily at 11:00 a. m.; to see Mrs. Jeanette Johnson riding



Biddle Avenue, looking north from Wyandotte Savings Bank, 1896



Biddle Avenue at Elm (foreground) and Oak (background), 1952



Biddle Avenue, looking south from Oak Street, 1896



Biddle Avenue, west side, between Oak and Elm, 1950

a bicycle hither and yon in the daily business of managing Johnson's Creamery; to listen to the gurgling of a baby Brohl laid on the bakery table while Mrs. Brohl helped her husband, Frank.

Lena Bittorf Cadaret doesn't know whether "it was civic duty or what it was called" when the alarm clock sharply rang for her rising between the hours of four and five a. m. on cold winter mornings to plow the streets deep with snow. The answer was that the Bittorf family had the only snow plow in the city and that her duty was not to question why as she slapped her blue hands against her sides and stiffened her quivering lips against the blustery winds and swirling snow. Up and down the Wyandotte streets she plowed in the early morning hours so that men could reach the Eureka Iron Works, the shipyards and the stave factories, and that school children could trudge to the Old Brown School and the High School on Oak street. Today, at 93 years, Lena recalls also "that if a church got in the way she plowed there too." After the snow plow had been placed in the back yard she hurried to the doors of the homes for meat orders, returning to the store to help put up the orders or journeyed into the country to get a fresh supply of meat, sometimes doing the slaughtering herself. Before her tired head could touch a soft pillow, meats had to be delivered for the evening meals.

Careers in business for women were an accepted fact in the business directory of Wyandotte.⁵² Many others hired out to J. H. Bishop Company and the J. B. Ford Division of the Michigan Alkali, as an alternative for housework.

Ever alert to the social and cultural needs of a city, so self-contained and isolated, the women sought to band together in organized groups and societies, literary and cultural, which accomplished much in providing luxuries in the city's growth.⁵³ Mrs. J. S. Van Alstyne and Mrs. J. H. Bishop were prominent in chartering the first such organizations, and it was Mrs. J. S. Van Alstyne who campaigned successfully against the bill board menace, championed waste receptacles for the streets, and the renovation of the undesirable Gladwell block, and all in good time, sponsored the first girls' basketball team.

Beloved school teachers joined the club women and the mothers in guiding the paths to good citizenship and character development. Kate Gartner, Ida Johnson, Eva Leighton, Ella Keveney, Belle Widner,

⁵²See list in section "Mercantile Interests."

⁵³See chapter on "Associations" for details of contributions.

Blanche Lacy, Lizzie Sullivan, Susan McCoy, Tillie Coop, whose names have changed from the single days of school teaching, and many others whose names but not their influence and faces have been dimmed by memories' years, have long been remembered for a daily motto on a black board or for attributes of patience, poise, obedience, kindness, and inspiration—all of which helped to temper the boys and girls of yesteryears into the Wyandotters of today.

The women's most formidable tasks have been achieving a place in politics in a town whose lusty males have had no minds for "petticoat government," and to maintain restraints on liquor.

Temperance organizations such as the Band of Hope, Father Matthews Society, and Women's Christian Temperance Union and weekly temperance lectures in the churches and social halls (sponsored by the priests, ministers, and the women) proved to be effective weapons in the 1880's after the connivers had ignored Eber Ward's founding edict during the intervening years.

The struggle became intense during this period, the council hall of 1886-1889 ringing out with voices pro and con for restrictions. It was estimated that on the basis of 4,000 population, Wyandotte had one public school to every 1,333 inhabitants, one church to every 570 and one saloon to every 266. Therefore many felt that something should be done about it by the citizens themselves since as one wag noted "a Wyandotte church was struck by lightning but no Wyandotte saloon had yet been visited with a tangible reminder of the wrath to come." In the heat of the fray one saloon keeper affected indignation "because his saloon on Oak street was used in a recent evening for a heated temperance discussion. He declared that the landlord threatened to raise his rent as a result." He asked Dolly Haven, the *Wyandotte Herald's* editor, to publicize in the paper for the public benefit the fact that he was not a "temperenzler." Editorially, Dolly assured the saloon keeper that he didn't need to worry, "that there certainly would be no grounds for the latter's fears."

In another instance, politicians worried as Germans in the Third Ward walked up and deposited straight Democratic ballots on city, state, and county tickets "because they were mad at the Republicans for submitting prohibition." Protests did not discourage the dauntless crusaders; instead the study of physiology with special reference to the effects of alcohol and tobacco on the human system was introduced as a required subject in "all branches" of the public schools in April, 1888. Except for the frightening and tragic interlude of the roaring 1920's

when Wyandotte's and the Down River Area's geographical position plunged it into the path of the liquor traffic, resulting from a national legislation, Wyandotte's vigilant citizens since the 1880's have kept liquor in its proper perspective.



Group of Wyandotte business men. Left to right, front row: Joseph Girardin, Jr., Conrad Genthe; second row: Charles Thomas the second, Henry Weatherwax, "Tony" Rochrig, Fred S. Johnson.

Men of Wyandotte, emulating the women, formed organizations also in which they too could help expand the city's well-being. The most influential of these organizations has been the Chamber of Commerce. The present Chamber of Commerce dates its history from 1920 but its spirit has travelled from the far year 1890 when a group of public spirited citizens gathered in the rear of the post office to take action on the results of a boom in Wyandotte.

Postmaster Denman called the meeting to order because he had been receiving so many communications from outside sources who had become impressed with the new improvements and advances the city had been making during the 1880's. Before him lay letters of inquiry about the eligibility of this city for manufacturing and other businesses, the inducements held out, and the date when lights and water would be ready for the public use. The assembled group agreed that the correspondence should be answered "with some degree of authority." The

conclusions resulted in the formation of the organization to be known as the "Wyandotte Business Men's Public Improvement Society" with J. H. Bishop, president; C. S. Babcock, secretary; E. H. Doyle, August Loeffler, William H. Denman, J. T. Hurst, and Dr. Walter Lambert, trustees. The scope of the society was planned to include correspondence with manufacturers seeking a location, the distribution of printed matter setting forth Wyandotte's advantages, and if necessary "to formulate and carry out plans for offering pecuniary assistance to enterprises that will employ labor." However, these plans did not exclude local participation in the furthering of bond drives for water and sewers and sundry civic projects.

The name of this civic minded group varied over the years but the purpose and ideals remained the same until the definitely recognizable name of Board of Commerce was adopted in 1920. In this new re-organization, Charles Gartner was elected president; Hubert Amiot, vice-president; John F. McInerney, secretary; James Headman, treasurer. Other directors included Oliver C. G. Lutz, Archibald B. Milkins, A. Koploy, W. Leo Cahalan, Elisha Shepherd, M. W. Lacy, A. W. Pardo, Harry A. Eberts, Henry Roehrig and Carson Long. In 1937, the co-ordination with activities in the other communities along the river front which seemed advisable in developing the whole Down River Area resulted in the Down River Chamber of Commerce co-operative group.

The organization has existed for one purpose—service to the community, expressed by "fostering and protecting the trade and promoting the civic welfare of the Down River Area; by securing and diffusing accurate information pertaining to this area, its industries and institutions; by promoting a friendly intercourse between business and professional men and women of this area and every town and community in Michigan." The scope of its activities, besides the manufacturing promotion, has included: contributions to the Community Memorial Fund for the purpose of erecting a memorial to the Wyandotte men who gave their lives in the service (1921); promotion of an educational campaign for sewer bonds, safety, and against river pollution; sponsorship of dedicatory civic ceremonies, street decorations for holidays, bulletins to merchants on tax collections and other business aids; accomplishment of civic and industrial surveys; agitation for an All-American channel, port facilities, and the St. Lawrence Seaway; initiation of plans for city beautification and Down River Historical Society; production of a Trade Expansion in 1940; guidance in plans for a Wyandotte Boat Club, sponsor-

ship of a dinner honoring the Pennsylvania Salt on its Centennial celebration, and stimulation of a "Get-Out-To-Vote" campaign. It has, and is, creating better understanding of mutual problems faced by business, industry, and labor in the yearly programs of B-E-L Days.

A Junior Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1941 to enlist the vim and vigor of the younger generation who like to work together with their own age group. Following the same purposes of the senior group, their activities have run the gamut of worthy projects within the city. Surveys; war projects—scrap and bond drives; Get-Out-To-Vote campaigns; blood bank drives; youth activities—Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, football banquets, teen-age variety shows, Rodeos, graduation parties, etc.; tree planting; "Salute the Recruits," and Servicemen's Christmas parties; gifts to disaster victims and to suffering Europeans, have been a few of their accomplishments.

Endowed with the impelling force of youth they are always ready with suggestions concerning parking, traffic safety and other civic matters for the consideration of the deliberative councilmen. Whenever action is needed the JC's have a pocketful to share with the laggards.

Not content with the mundane services of the group, they foster initiative for exceptional civic leadership by offering the Man-of-the-Year award to the person who has distinguished himself in community service, and to the outstanding JC member of the year through the George J. Gettleman trophy. Selected by a non-member committee, the Man-of-the-Year awards have been granted to: John C. "Jack" Kreger, 1941; Ralph Wagner, 1942;⁶⁴ William "Bill" Kreger, 1944; Richard T. Kelly, 1945; Dorval McLaughlin, 1946; John Cramer, 1947; Fred Bufe, 1948; Thomas Watkowski, 1949; Dr. Andrew Frostic, 1950; Ben Carollo, 1951; Steve Quirk, 1952; and Clifford "Skip" Clack, 1953. The Gettleman trophy includes the names of: James DeMaggio, 1944; Paul Giannola, 1945; Sam Richards, 1946; Edgar Sharlow, 1947; Fred Bufe, 1948; Len Robinson, 1949; Phil Tocco, 1950; William Welke, 1951; Ben Carollo, 1952; and Sid Fogel, 1953.

The local unit in turn has received its own awards from its State and National organization. In 1943 Wyandotte JC's won state recognition for "Trade Promotion, Sports and Governmental Affairs." The trophy was again captured in 1944 for "International Affairs."

Co-ordinating with the Chamber of Commerce, the Government has fulfilled its major purpose of city improvement first by attempting to

⁶⁴1943 award omitted because of the war.

clean up street conditions. The very first ordinance concerned the impounding of animals running at large. However, in the early years, lax enforcement of the original ordinance continued the problem into the aggressive 1880 period. Then the citizens vociferously demanded that Wyandotte cease to be "the barnyard of the state." Dead chickens, cats and dogs lying in alleys, ditches made into duck and goose ponds, and cows forming stumbling blocks to unwary citizens, or physically attacking children and pedestrians, slowly and surely became a condition of the past with the issuance of a Cow Ordinance in 1889 and more rigid control and impounding of animals running at large. Other needs



Laying crosswalk, corner Biddle and Elm Streets. In the background, Dr. Richardson's dental office, Franklin store with awning, Wayman house, George Beebe's residence. Peter Lacy, first city recorder and mason, on his knees (right), Dave Roberts (center) and George Marx. The man on extreme left, bending over, is unidentified.

militantly brought to the attention of the aldermen through public opinion in the 1880's were: sewage, lights, water, streets and sidewalks, a grist mill, a street sprinkler, more resident factory owners, a street railway communication with Detroit, more regiments in the "dinner pail brigade," "shade trees planted where there are none now," smoke consumers, less scattering of mercantile interest over the town, more

cash business and less credit in all lines of trade, to have the River Park Hotel property placed on the market for sale and houses built in its place, a little more regard for the first day of the week commonly called Sunday, a crematory for the back numbers who are still singing "Little Annie Rooney," "to keep up the present happily inaugurated spirit of enterprise, and less selfish devotion to personal interest and more regard for the good of the whole town when improvements are being agitated."

The aldermen harkened to the voices of the ballot casters and took up each item in respective time (exception—the singing of "Annie Rooney"—no headway in this matter. It was still being sung at the Shipbuilders' Ball in 1896.)

The improvements connected with the development of the items customarily labelled public utilities such as water, lights, and sewage ran into pecuniary difficulties. A majority of Wyandotters wanted conveniences if they didn't cost money. The dubious pleasure of melting snow, the carrying of buckets of water from the river, or purchasing barrels of water delivered at the door for ten cents finally gave way to the greater considerations of health conditions. Losing a loved one by typhoid fever was a convincing argument along with the maneuvering of politicians. Early in 1881, an intake pipe from the river had been connected with the City Hall for fire department use, but it had not been too successful because of engineering mistakes. Water became an established fact in Wyandotte history in the year 1889. At that time a bond issue was passed for the erection of a pumping station on the river bank south of Poplar Street. The exciting first water connection in the city was in the home of John L. Northrup on Front Street (Van Alstyne today) in March 1890, but the use of the first water meter in the Marx Brewery was delayed until 1896. To one taxpayer the historic event called for the caustic comment, "As we are to have water works, it would be advisable for the aldermen to have several places fixed for where cattle could get a drink. It is a common thing to see 75 to 100 head of cattle roaming the streets. Wyandotte is now a cow pasture and the aldermen should provide for better pasture and improve the streets. Also we should have better sidewalks as it is getting dangerous for the cattle to stand on the old ones." One woman, still worried about the money situation, begged the census taker to omit her occupation as a laundress, fearing in some way her biography might fall under the eyes of the Water Board and cause them to raise her rate! Additions and improvements have been made to the water system over



First Water Works building

the years since that historic date, highlighted by the filtration plant in 1919 and the new building in 1935. The centennial year witnessed the completion of four new rapid sand filters with a capacity of one million gallons per day each and a new intake pipe forty-two inches in diameter extending 1700 feet into the river and resulting in a better quality of raw water. With the completion of the Municipal Light Plant in 1894, the water became a segment of municipal service supervised by the Water and Electric Board.

The year 1889 continued to be checked historically for the story of lighting. In December of that year, the operation of the Wyandotte Electric Company,⁵⁵ managed by E. H. Doyle, began to function with the installation of street lights and services to the public.

The turning on of the first electric street lights was the occasion of much rejoicing. Watkin Benjamin and Richard Toomey, the first

⁵⁵The original office building is functioning as a residence at 456 Orange Street. Operations were conducted on the grounds of the Detroit Hoop and Stave Company.



Municipal Light Plant

lamplighters in the city, now could join the other boys and play marbles or "Duck on the Rock" under the new lights. They had worked for Patrick Welch, who had the contract for the old kerosene lamps stationed mainly along Biddle Avenue. It had been their job to climb a small ladder, clean the wicks, and light the lamps. Every one came to town that night to see the new lights and to listen to the Excelsior Band play sweet harmonies under each one of the five lamps first installed. There was some comment that this may not have anything to do with the fact that the lights flickered out at midnight.

As time passed the service proved to be somewhat unsatisfactory because of the continual disagreement arising over the rate question and the refusal of Mr. Doyle to send in a yearly bid on city lighting. As a result, a group of citizens formulated plans for a municipal light service. The ensuing municipal fights over this question endured for many years and made an indelible mark upon the city's history.

In bitter triumph the Municipal Light Service was passed by the voters in 1892, and the General Electric Company was awarded the contract for building the plant believed by many to be one of the first (if not the first) municipally operated plants in the state of Michigan. It was completed in 1894. In spite of the opposition, municipal lighting, judged objectively, has been one of the many blessings of the city,

and its success speaks meritoriously of the citizens who have served on its supervisory boards, the Board of Public Works and, since 1926, the Municipal Service Commission. The pioneers of this project, John C. Cahalan, J. H. Bishop, Dr. E. P. Christian, Daniel Campau, Thomas Evans, James T. Hurst, and Dr. T. J. Langlois, had visions of its value and would not be surprised, if they were alive today, to learn that it has paid for all its additions and improvements out of its earnings (the last bond issue for an extension was made in 1907 and liquidated in 1937); that it sustained the city's welfare load and the Wyandotte General Hospital during the depression years of the 1930's; that its funds contributed to the building of the west side Fire Station, the Wyandotte General Hospital's Nurses' home, and purchase of the J. H. Bishop home for the City Hall. For the money-conscious Wyandotter it has been a happy reward to know that the city light rate has been the lowest in Wayne County and among the lowest in Michigan. When accumulated surplus funds have not been needed for other purposes, a percentage refund has been mailed to the tax-payers in December as a city Christmas present. Statistically, studies have proven in Wyandotte that it is possible to run a municipal business and make a profit, which is beneficial to tax-payers.

The light question had scarcely been settled when sewage precipitated another municipal argument. Mason L. Brown conducted a survey and submitted plans in 1895 which were not deemed adequate for long range planning by many tax-payers. If there were to be a sewage system and money spent, then it should be adequate for many years. The Brown faction felt the three outlets plan for Chestnut Street, Orange Street, and Orchard Street was satisfactory. Bond issues for the program were rejected by the voters year after year. Hopelessly the progressives pondered that before the city could have a system there would have to be either an epidemic of disease that would frighten the people into action or an era of harmony among all classes and the complete "casting out of all prejudices."

Finally in 1904 a bond issue for sewers was passed, and the program reached completion in 1907. In 1937 under W. P. A. projects, the collection system was completely modernized, joining with Wayne County Drain No. 5. The year 1939 witnessed the construction of a main plant of the Wayne County Disposal System in Wyandotte at Central and Seventh Street. This Wyandotte unit was planned to service all of Wayne County west and south of Dearborn and the River Rouge. Albert T. Kunze of Wyandotte was selected as general superintendent.

Although gas service has not been a municipally sponsored commodity, nevertheless the franchise for such a business is licensed and approved by the city government. A franchise request appeared on the Council agenda in 1899 for August Loeffler and William Gartner. After the franchise was granted, the articles of incorporation for the Wyandotte Light and Fuel Company were filed in 1900, and plans proceeded for the erection of a plant on Eureka Avenue near what is known today as the viaduct and Frisch's Cement Works. The first gas was turned on by John S. Van Alstyne in January, 1902, and the first bills were paid at an office in the Wyandotte Savings Bank building. The Company sold the business to the "Detroit Gas Company" in 1904 which in turn sold it again and it was re-organized into the "Detroit Suburban Company" in 1909. In 1913 gas service was extended under the name, "City Gas Company," and in 1938 their office was moved from the long-time location in the Wyandotte Savings Bank building to the Wyandotte Daily News building on First Street. By 1940 the name "Michigan Consolidated Gas Company" replaced the name "City Gas Company." The Michigan Consolidated Gas Company completed another milestone preparatory to the centennial by opening in a new office on Maple Street in 1953.

The requested grist mill and street sprinkling became realities in 1893 when the Wyandotte Flouring Mill, on receipt of a bonus of \$1,000, opened at the corner of Oak and Front Streets, and a sprinkler was purchased and service offered to merchants for \$1.00 per year.

The old plank sidewalks, which a local mathematician had figured had caused more profanity than all other causes combined, were removed and cinder walks experimented with in 1887. They were made from coarse cinders spread with ashes from the rolling mill and top dressed with sawdust from the shipyard and stave mills. In 1888 the first stone sidewalk was laid in front of Kaul's department store. By 1899 cement sidewalks were being laid on Biddle, and the last piece of wooden walk was removed.

Many years elapsed before street paving was accomplished. In the meantime concern was felt over the forest of weeds that grew in the middle of Biddle Avenue. It was thought that children alighting from carriages and street-cars might get lost. Gossip also spread at one time that the Thon Brothers' repainting of their hearse was in anticipation of the summer business which looked promising in view of the street conditions. Many lived, however, until 1906 to witness the paving in

brick of the first street in Wyandotte,⁵⁶ Biddle Avenue. Previously, slag from the rolling mill had been used to re-enforce the streets, while Oak Street had been planked, and Front Street was known as "The Corduroy Road." The year 1914 was one of the most active in the history of Wyandotte for transforming dirt streets into paved ones. Van Alstyne, from Elm to Eureka, Poplar, Chestnut, Eureka, and many others were paved that year and extensive plans were made for continuing the program into the next year. Since the close of World War I, street and sidewalk programs have been a regular routine of the Engineering Department of the city.

The one-hundred-year-old problem of smoke and dust which filled the homes of the 1880's, ruined carpets and furniture, and "tried the patience of the good ladies to the utmost" offers no precedent of solution to the present councilmen who are besieged by "irate residents storming the council hall," and "rained with letters of abuse on dirt and smell." It is the earnest hope of the citizens that the year 2054 will record the triumphs of Fred Classon, smoke-abatement official, and his advisory committee. The beginning and the end of the story of smoke, dirt, and fumes may then be written. While listening to the complaints of tax-payers and attempting to do something about them, visionary aldermen looked to the north, south and west, and wondered just how long improvement and growth could continue without bulging the boundary lines.

To the south lay South Detroit; to the north, a segment of Ecorse township, which later became Ford City; to the west over the railroad tracks, that portion of the countryside called "New Jerusalem" since the "rolling mill"⁵⁷ days." No one knows exactly how it derived its name, but a few are of the opinion that Ab Brown, a practical joker employed at the rolling mill, started the phrase because it was a section which attracted the newcomers of foreign extraction who had come to this country seeking employment but who still clung to their agricultural habits, small farms, and meager standards of living. Ducks and geese were raised in abundance and permitted to roam at large—hence the nomenclature "Duck and Goose Town" also developed in derision of the section.

The aldermen's suggestion of annexation of the territory in 1895 was not favorably received. The same arguments citizens apply to annexation

⁵⁶When the bricks were taken up, they were used in the band stand in Bishop Park.

⁵⁷Colloquial term. "Rolling mill days" is a descriptive term always used by native Wyandotters to designate the time between 1854-1880 when that industry dominated the town.

programs today were offered then, negatively: Taxes expended to improve annexed territory exceed the taxes received from the new territory; positively: Annexation provides city expansion and improvement.

While Wyandotte was discussing the problem, Ford City incorporated as a village in 1902, and New Jerusalem became incorporated as the village of Glenwood in 1900. Soon after Glenwood was established it was discovered that another Glenwood, Michigan, was causing havoc in the mailing system, so the postmaster-general suggested changing the name of the post-office only. Consequently, Postmaster Herman A. Turski, who had worked for Mr. Bacon in his home (the present library) and who had a great admiration for the family, decided to show his respect by naming the post-office at Glenwood, "Bacon." Mail henceforth was delivered for Bacon, Michigan, even though the village name remained "Glenwood."

After the annexation arguments had been duly expressed and the projected territory had been conditioned for a favorable vote, the following areas were added to the city of Wyandotte: 1904, South Detroit, one-half mile long north and south, one-quarter mile wide including the Michigan Alkali Plant No. 1 and half of the Pennsylvania Salt Company, namely, the territory between Grove Street, Pennsylvania Road, and the railroads; 1905, the village of Glenwood extending from the railroad tracks west on Eureka to 14th Street and north to Vinewood Avenue; 1922, Ford City, which included territory from North Line to Ecorse Creek; 1924, all territory west of the railroad tracks and 14th Street to Fort, and the southerly limits of Lincoln Park to Pennsylvania Road.

Although the annexation of territories extended the boundary lines theoretically from Emmons Boulevard on the north to Pennsylvania Road on the south, and from the river to Fort Street, the old original boundary lines continued to exert a psychological effect on the character and attitude of the town and its citizens. Just as it is considered a truism that the first seven years of a child's life determine the character of the adult, so the early days or pioneer period of a town has often been observed to have influenced or determined the character of the evolving modern city. In Wyandotte during the formative years of the village, the central life of the town ended at the railroad tracks which crossed diagonally through the city. This boundary line effected an "other side of the tracks" attitude in the community thinking. An attitude of intolerance and inferiority was soon attached to that section of "Duck and Goose Town" whose citizens had not the advantage of living east of the railroad tracks. After the formal annexation of the area to Wyandotte



Marriage of Ford City and Wyandotte

A mock ceremony was held by the Wyandotte Board of Commerce at the Alkali Club, Wyandotte, Wednesday, December 13, celebrating the recent annexation of Ford Village to Wyandotte at a special election on Tuesday, December 5. The principals were—The Bride: Charles E. Begeman, President of the Ford City Trustees; The Bridegroom: H. S. Amiot, Mayor of Wyandotte; The Officiating Minister, at the right: Judge Roy Coomer, of Wyandotte. Judge Dick Montie, of Ecorse, gave the bride away. The Indian attendants were—A squaw: W. F. Frostic, Superintendent of Wyandotte Schools; a chief: C. F. Pike, Superintendent of Ford City Schools; a chief: Frank Armstrong, of Wyandotte.

and the trend of expanded community life spread to this suburban territory, west of the tracks changed to the newer and better residential district. It is now becoming evident that the "other side of the tracks" has been reversed and will be known as "Old Wyandotte" with a definite emphasis on the old and inferior. Therefore, the railroad tracks have been and seem to be continued as a pre-determined barrier. Today new civic planning, new schools, new stores, new development for civic advancement are focused on the west side of the tracks leaving Old Wyandotte to industrial and business enterprises.

The governmental ward dividing lines also established sectional attitudes. The First Ward, from North Line to Oak, was considered the reserved and privileged location for the "lace-curtained" crowd, or aristocrats; the Second Ward, from Elm to Eureka, was considered the middle class area; and the Third Ward, from Eureka to Grove, was

designated for the proletarians. The class distinctions were so pronounced that families struggled to move from one ward to another in order to improve their social standing. The attitude was not confined to adults; schoolyards rang with the voices of children tauntingly reciting this well-known folklore jingle:

“The First Ward girls wear ruffles on their pants;
The Second Ward girls wear them plain;
The Third Ward girls wear none at all,
But they get there just the same.”

The mythical lines of the pioneer days still persist in thought regarding the different sections of the city. Annexation of territory north to Emmons and south to Pennsylvania merely extended the area miles of the respective wards' social attitudes.

Customarily “good government movements” or a standing group ready to protect the political welfare of the city are also an important feature of civic planning and improvements. Since good government has been evident in Wyandotte, there has never been any felt need for such an organization. However, the heritages of frugal governmental spending and the 1880 spirit of enterprise have found organized expression in the twentieth century, which in some instances may be considered as elements affecting good government.

About 1905, the Wyandotte Civic Improvement Society, which included a Ladies' Auxiliary, became active in achieving better civic conditions aesthetically. In 1907 this group decided that their work would be more effective if the unit was re-organized by streets. The first two streets to be represented were Biddle Avenue from Elm and Oak to North Line, and Vine Street, which group continued actively for more than three years as the Vine Street Improvement Association. The same idea was promoted in the 1940's by the Schorr Grove Civic Group whose purpose was to protect property interests and to insure a proper share of improvements for Schorr Grove. A South West District Association was announced in 1928. The district formed a triangle with Flat Rock marking the southern boundary line; and Fordson, Dearborn, and Wayne the north line. The Detroit River marked the eastern edge and included Wyandotte. The purpose was to develop the section through co-ordination of all the effort. Studies of the residential neighborhood, recreational opportunities, and transportation facilities were made.

The economic conditions of the Great Depression promoted the organization of the Out-County Protective League with Wyandotte representative George Adams holding the vice-president's position. Its purpose was

to eliminate "worthless units of county, village, and township governments," but its ideas were soon abandoned for fear "the big, bad wolf," Detroit, would move in and take over a dominating position.

The Wyandotte Taxpayers Protective Association was also organized in the 1930's with the announced object of "keeping tab on expenditures of public moneys." It accomplished its purpose by watching, analyzing and sending resolutions of budget suggestions to the city and school units. The name, "Wyandotte Taxpayers Association," became usual for this same group in the 1940's. At that time the scope of the vigilance included the state government.

The Wyandotte Civic Improvement Group was organized in 1948 for those "who wish to see community improvements." Among the projects advocated for the city were swimming pools, more parks, supervised recreational centers for boys and girls, open lectures at the city hall to acquaint students with their city government, and a "Welcome" pamphlet telling about the city. After plans began to materialize for these suggestions, the group became inactive. It is not known how much these accomplished projects were influenced by this organization or by the City Planning Commission which had been created by government resolution in November 1946.

The City Planning Commission comprises nine members with staggering terms. The purpose of the group has been to set up codes and plans "aimed for the gradual extension, beautification, and refinement of the city's natural advantages." Since 1946 this committee has functioned actively and regularly, influencing master planning for parking, super highways, widened streets, swimming pools, shade tree planting, new annexation of territory, expansion of the water front facilities including a city-owned marina, and extension of park and recreational facilities.

It is doubtful at this stage in the city's history that the pioneer prophecy, "In 1950 Wyandotte is still on the map, Detroit has been annexed, and Wyandotte is one of the largest manufacturing cities in the Union, exceeded only in population by Chicago ranking first, and with New York City only a few thousand population ahead of Wyandotte," will ever be realized, but it is quite certain that Detroit will never annex Wyandotte, as its citizens purposefully and staunchly set the course for a bigger and better city in the next one hundred years.

PART III

LIFE in our city functioning under the democratic philosophy of civic organization has granted our citizens their **REWARDS OF FREEDOM**: the right to work usefully and creatively in a vocation, a factory or industry of one's own choosing, or to establish a business for profit; the right to erect as many churches as the community needs, for worship in one's own way; the right to construct schools for training in citizenship, and personal growth; the right to record one's expressions of thought and tongue in newspapers, magazines, and libraries of the community; the right to rest, to adventure, to play for the refreshment of one's body and mind; and the right to assemble in groups and organizations to advance the socially valuable activities.

17. Articles of Association
of
The Eureka Iron Company

Volume B Page 18 Associations, Partner-
ships and Corporations in the office
of the Clerk for the County of Wayne.
Dated October 24, 1853

Article I

This company is organized under an act of the legislature of the State of Michigan, entitled "An Act to authorize the formation of corporations for the mining, smelting or manufacturing of iron, copper, mineral, coal, silver or other ores or minerals and for other manufacturing purposes," approved February 5, 1853. Its name shall be the Eureka Iron Company and its capital stock shall be Five Hundred Thousand Dollars divided into 20,000 shares of \$25.00 each.

Article II

The business of said Company shall be the mining, smelting and refining of iron and copper ore and other metals and metallic ores; and its business shall be conducted in Marquette and Wayne Counties, in the State of Michigan, and its business office kept in the City of Detroit.

Article III

The officers of said Company shall consist of seven directors, a president, a treasurer and secretary and such other agents as the directors may from time to time appoint. The president or secretary may also be treasurer and the first directors shall be Eber Ward, Harmon DeGraff, U. T. Howe, Philip Thurber, Silas M. Holmes, Thomas W. Lockwood and Silas N. Kendrick.

Article IV

The annual meeting shall be held in the office of the Company in Detroit on the fourth Monday of October and may be adjourned from time to time. The time and place of holding the annual meeting may be altered by the by-laws.

Article V

The amount paid in on the capital of said Company is Thirty Thousand Dollars. The stock of said Company is held by the following persons in the following amounts:

Eber B. Ward	2500 shares
Harmon DeGraff	1250 shares
Silas N. Kendrick	1250 shares
U. T. Howe	1000 shares
Silas M. Holmes	1000 shares
Philip Thurber	2000 shares
Elijah Wilson	1000 shares
Thomas W. Lockwood	300 shares
Francis Choate	500 shares
	<u>10,800 shares</u>

Philip Thurber in
trust for distribution 9,200 shares
20,000 shares

all residents of Detroit, except Elijah Wilson, who resides in Cleveland, Ohio, and Francis Choate, who resides at Clarence, Erie County, New York.

Article VI

The said Company shall continue in existence thirty years.
Executed by E. B. Ward, Harmon DeGraff, Silas N. Kendrick, U. Tracey Howe, S. M. Holmes, Philip Thurber, Elijah Wilson, by P. Thurber, his attorney in fact, Thomas W. Lockwood, Francis Choate and P. Thurber, Trustees.
Acknowledged October 25 and 26, 1853
Filed October 27, 1853 at 10:00 A.M.

CHAPTER 8

INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

“ . . . Who is so unlearned in the science of government that he does not know that labor is the source of all wealth and that a nation rich in material wealth and powerful in resources has become so through the thrift and industry of the great rank and file of the people.”

Edward C. Bryan

Boat Builder

City Clerk and Artist

High School Alumni Address

1927

THE cozy reception room of the new Michigan Alkali Clubhouse (present American Legion Clubhouse) was buzzing with conversation the night of January 30, 1901. The clubhouse, which had been opened only a few months, symbolized the growing success of Wyandotte's new chemical industry—the Michigan Alkali Company and J. B. Ford Division. This particular evening the principal speaker was to be John S. Van Alstyne and his address “The Iron Industry, Its Rise, Progress and Decline in Wyandotte” (1854-1892). The topic was creating considerable interest because it was a story which concerned the life-line of the city until it had been forced to bow to its successor, and there was no better qualified person to discuss the facts than Mr. Van Alstyne who had experienced the beginning and ending of this world-renowned industry. Many of those present were aware of the importance of this address and were suggesting that copies of the paper should be filed away for future reference.

Mr. Van Alstyne realized the importance of the story also and introduced his one hour address with this comment:

“It may serve to teach important lessons and will certainly be interesting, to carefully consider the history of the Eureka Iron Company, always remembering that the policy of large and extensive manufacturing corporations is rarely dictated by prejudice or individual caprice, but by careful consideration of the questions involved and the probable success of measures adopted. History has been said to be philosophy teaching by example, and so history of

enterprises as of nations will be found to be controlled by broad general principles of universal application and I ask you to keep this fact in mind while I tell the story of the iron industry in Wyandotte."

Mr. Van Alstyne began by relating the familiar account of the discovery of iron in northern Michigan, the organization of the company, and the search for a suitable location for a mill.

Mr. Julius Clauss, retired Chief Engineer of the Great Lakes Steel Company, and one who has made an extensive study of the iron industry in the Down River Area, has mentioned in his articles that the essentials of this type of industry are ore, fuel, water, and an accessible market. With this same intention, Mr. Van Alstyne pointed out that the men of the Eureka Iron and Steel Company and Eber Ward, searching the Detroit River from Gibraltar to Port Huron, recognized in this deep-wooded Biddle estate a site for a good supply of wood for charcoal, a port where the iron could be readily unloaded from vessels, and shipments of finished pig iron could be made the whole year.

Accordingly, after the land had been purchased from Major Biddle, plans were drawn for the erection of the plant under the superintendency of Darius Webb. The selected location was the site of the former Indian village of Maquaqua on the Detroit River between Elm and Eureka Avenues of the present day. Here a clearing had already been made by the Indians and the soil was high, dry and of clean, yellow sand.

The furnace was built of stone brought to the site by Captain William Bolton, by way of the Detroit River. Mr. Van Alstyne continued that:

"The stone stack, at first, was a small one, only 35 feet high with an 8 foot bosh or diameter. Later the stack was replaced by one 55 feet high and large enough for a 12 or 16 foot bosh. . . . The first engine was a horizontal combination affair that could not be run at any speed and blew pressure of about one pound to the square inch through two small tuyeres, while later equipment blew three to five pounds through five 4 inch tuyeres. . . . The hot blast was a cube of about 7 or 8 feet dimension, the stock was elevated by an inclined railway, the first on the south, afterwards on the west side of the stack. Ore was broken by sledges and hammers, later stamps.

"In the spring of 1855 the attention of the directors of the company was called to a small rolling mill in Utica, New York, for sale at a low figure, and thinking that it would be for the advantage of Eureka in the sale not only of its iron but of its real estate to establish this additional branch of the industry here, a new corporation was formed, the Wyandotte Rolling Mill Company, its stockholders largely those who were already stockholders of Eureka. The mill was bought and set up just south of the Eureka furnace, starting

up in the fall of the same year, 1855. It was a very modest concern. The building was 140 feet square covering a bar mill, muck mill and squeezer, and an 8 in. guide mill. It was called a 10 ton mill or a mill that would prepare and turn out 10 tons of finished iron per day. It was expected that this mill would consume the product of the furnace, but it was soon found that Lake Superior pig was too expensive a stock to be used in the manufacture of common bar. When exceptional good quality was required, a limited amount could be used, but the largest proportion of the product of the mills was made from scrap and cheaper grades of pig iron."

News of the building of an iron mill spread rapidly and soon a large number of physically powerful men, mostly of Irish descent, for in these days the industry had no place for weaklings, sought a job in the production. Soon the buildings were ready, men whose names are now forgotten stood ready—Alexander Trueman, Heater; Mike Brophy, Puddler; William English, Heater; Dan Henry, Hooker; Dan Carter, Roller; John McCann, Heater; Elijah Trites, Heater; George Rowe, Heater; Mark Bird, Roller; Pat Fury, Hooker; Mike Weatherwax, Puddler; and many others. Then one morning in April, 1856, the first blast was fired. The capacity was ten tons a day. On that date, Wyandotte became conscious of its place in the world of industry.⁵⁸ Mr. Van Alstyne explained:

"From time to time, improvements were made in the equipment of the furnace. New boilers, new hot blasts, new engine and air receiver, new casting house, the stamps replaced by crusher, and finally a new boiler iron stack as at present, a complete revolution in every part and resulting in a first-class furnace, producing regularly 60 tons of charcoal pig per day, with an expenditure of about two-thirds the amount of fuel per ton and the labor costs less than one-half that of the first stack. The furnace in its various conditions ran whenever the state of the market warranted until December, 1892, when it was blown out and has not been lighted up.

"While I am on the furnace subject, it may be well to make mention of the Ward Furnace, or as it has been latterly known, the stone furnace. This was a personal venture of Captain Ward. It was built in 1863 under the charge

⁵⁸For some years the trademark of an Indian has carried Wyandotte products the world around. Eber Ward was the first one to use a brass Indian, shining in the sun, on top of his building to designate the Eureka Iron Company. From that time the Indian has been used unofficially as a trademark throughout Wyandotte History. It has been observed on the funnel of the steamer "Wyandotte," products of the Wyandotte Tool Company, Wyandotte Loop buses, masthead of the *Wyandotte Tribune*, business cards of the City Officials, and the seal of the Centennial celebration. The Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation's use of the Indian is most widely recognized officially.

of Mr. O. T. Brinton, lately deceased, and while not so fine and modern as the later Eureka, was much superior to the original Eureka. It was ten feet higher and of greater diameter, had an engine of more modern type and one of the earlier Pleyer ovens for heating the blast with a water balance elevator for raising the stock. This furnace was built at a favorable era of the pig iron business and it was said that it earned enough the first year it ran to pay its entire cost.

"The next mill erected was the rail mill in 1857. The then superintendent of the mills, Mr. Lewis Scofield, a man of great executive ability, who had been for many years in charge of the Peter Cooper Mills at Trenton, New Jersey, was largely instrumental in the building of the mill. It was built for the purpose of re-rolling the iron into iron rails and during its active life was almost entirely used for that purpose. It was the first mill in the country west of the Allegheny mountains and for many years did an extensive and profitable business. The life of an iron rail was estimated at 10 years so that 10 per cent of the track of a railroad had to be taken up and re-rolled every year. The process was as follows: The old rails were broken up into lengths of 5 or 6 feet. These pieces were tied into bundles—then heated—and rolled into flats 6 inches wide and 1 inch thick. These flats were cut into uniform length, again heated and rolled into a new rail in the rail and finishing mill. For this service and supplying the heating and rolling waste about 10 per cent, the mill received \$30 per ton or more than it now costs for the new steel rail, material, labor and all.

"The rail mill gave employment to a large number of skilled workmen at liberal wages, and during its life was the best part of the mill so far as the scattering of money was concerned. The advent of the steel rail, however, put a stop to this business.

"The next department added to the mills was the boiler plate mill. The admirable quality of Lake Superior iron made it especially adapted for this use in the early sixties and about 1860 the first mill was put up next below the 8 inch mill. This first mill did good work for several years, but while the product was all that could be desired, in point of quality, it was not large enough to make plates the size required for the trade, and in 1871 a new and larger plate mill was built. The mill was built by Garrison & Company, of Pittsburgh, was first class in every respect and was said to be as it was intended to be the finest plate mill in the country at that time. The product was unsurpassed in quality and Wyandotte boiler plate was known all over the boiler making world within the radius of its business as a synonym for the very best. Its tensile strength, reduction of area and ductility were up to the highest standard and in quality it was first and set the pace. It was made from Wyandotte C. C. pig. The higher grades were all rolled from blooms that had been converted from pig or cast iron to wrought iron in the run out fire or the knobbling fires and then hammered. They had never seen any more

true, noble and pure fuel than charcoal, until put into the heating furnace before being rolled into the plate.

"The plate mill was a profitable part of the mills and though the tonnage produced was small compared with that of many modern mills equipped with labor saving devices, still the margin was large enough to permit the mill to net very considerable profits to its owners. The small plate mill was afterwards adapted for use as a sheet mill. I do not think it was ever a source of much if any profit as such. The making of sheet iron was discontinued and subsequently when the mills had passed into the hands of the Eureka the sheet mill was taken out and a 10 inch guide mill for merchant iron was put in its place."

The two furnaces and rolling mill consumed 6,000 bushels of charcoal per day, over two million bushels a year, or about 50,000 cords of wood. The crashing of mighty oaks and hickories was continually resounding in the air, clearing the land in west Wyandotte of all trees—yet it was a good sound to hear, for it meant the mill was running, good jobs at hand, and at the same time the land was cleared for homes and farmers. The huge logs from the fallen trees were placed in iron retorts or kilns which dotted the landscape south of Wyandotte and along the Eureka Road for some years. The kilns were set on fire and the earth and coverage restricted the draught or supply of air and thus kept the wood from completely burning to ashes, forming charred ash fuel which made the smelting of iron possible. A steady stream of wagons brought in the charred fuel to feed the hungry furnaces. Coke replaced the use of charcoal in later years.

For thirty years the industry boomed. In 1870 the city ranked eighth in steel output in the United States. In 1876 the Wyandotte mill produced the largest piece of boiler plate up to that time. It was sent to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia where it was regarded with awe by thousands who thought of Wyandotte as a "rough and uncouth western town." The company received reward medals for the best boiler plate and flanging iron.

Still there was a greater and newer adventure to be recorded in the story of iron in Wyandotte—the Bessemer process—a new invention.

About 1850, an ironmaster, who faced bankruptcy because the woods around the little town of Eddyville, Kentucky, were so far from his charcoal business, sat watching a yellow mass of melting iron. "A breath of air, leaking through the fiery furnace struck one corner of the metal and made it glow and sparkle. The man saw a spot in the iron turn a glaring white and become incandescent. He leaned forward, watched

for a moment, then he leaped to his feet and spoke aloud to himself." That man was known in Eddyville as William Kelly, "the business failure."

That day, without knowledge of a theory as a background, he discovered a law of chemistry—"that oxygen and air will unite with the silicon and manganese and other impurities in raw iron and produce steel"—a discovery which was to change the industrial and economic life of the whole world.

In order to prove his theory to the public, William Kelly spent several years conducting experiments and trying to find a manufacturer willing to accept the process. When he arrived at the Cambria works in Pennsylvania to demonstrate his air converter, the Cambria puddlers, fearing they would lose their jobs if the new process proved successful, laughed at him, called him a crank and finally ruined his experimental equipment. In despair, William Kelly turned his steps toward Detroit and Eber Ward.

The challenge of trying a new invention was quickly accepted by Mr. Ward and to help the weary inventor, the Bessemer method of producing steel was run in Wyandotte in 1864—*the first ingots of steel process in the United States!* On May 25, 1865, with the assistance of William F. Durfee, the Wyandotte mill was used to roll steel rails made from the Kelly converter. These were the first steel rails produced in the United States. However, the steel production strained the capacity of the mill which had been designed to roll softer iron and rather than revamp the local factory, Eber Ward moved this operation to his Chicago plant.

In the meantime, William Kelly discovered that Henry Bessemer, a noted English inventor, had patented the air process as his own invention. Kelly's claims were sustained by the patent office, but because he was unable to secure funds to develop the equipment and because manufacturers hesitated to use the Kelly process for fear of having to pay a high royalty, his name was buried in obscurity until 1922 when a tablet bearing his name and testimonial of his contribution was unveiled at the Carnegie Library building in Wyandotte. The tablet was presented to the city of Wyandotte as an event of the Fourth International Steel Convention, held in Detroit. It reads:

Kelly's First Tilting Bessemer Steel Converter

This Tablet Is Dedicated
To The Memory Of

Those Pioneers Of The
Steel Industry Who In 1864
On This The Site Of The Wyandotte Iron Works
Erected The First
Bessemer Steel Converter
Used Commercially For
The Manufacture Of
Bessemer Steel In America

Marked By
Detroit Chapter
American Society Of Steel Treating
October 5, 1922⁵⁰

"And so in Wyandotte in 1864, under Captain Eber B. Ward, was the genesis of the steel industry of America. It was here at Wyandotte, from whence sprang mighty railroad systems, super dreadnoughts of the sea and dreadnoughts of the air, towering skyscrapers, giant locomotives and millions of automobiles to make mockery of time and space."⁶⁰

Wyandotte's pride and joy, the first mill to make charcoal iron from Lake Superior ore, was destined to a short life through circumstances of time and nature. No one agrees upon the one and same reason and so King Iron's fatal illness may have been caused by a series of complications. Trees at 50,000 cords a year were rapidly constituting a shortage. Charcoal was brought in cars by rail, a distance of 150 to 200 miles so that its transportation cost became a heavy load for the furnaces to carry. Pennsylvania and Ohio districts had been quick to adopt the Bessemer process once Eber Ward had proven its value. Since these sections had coal, coke, and natural gas, much better fuels than charcoal, they were able to produce a cheaper product than the Wyandotte company. Also, steel had become more useful than iron so that the production of the Eureka Iron Works was forced to face uneven competition. Iron markets fluctuated drastically in price.

The panic of 1873 had likewise made inroads into the financial stability of the company through dubious currency (period of "greenbacks"). To pay workmen at the mill, "scrip" was issued in values of two, five, ten, and twenty dollars, bearing seven percent interest and dated and signed

⁵⁰Today the tablet is in storage at the Bacon Memorial Public Library. The suitable location for replacement would be Winkleman's on Biddle Avenue.

⁶⁰William B. Downie, "Life of Eber Ward," 1941. Typed.

by "Eber B. Ward" and "S. L. Potter." They were prepared by the Calvert Lithography Company of Detroit. Wyandotte merchants and speculators cashed them at a discount of forty per cent. From time to time the mill redeemed quantities at ninety, plus interest. Many of the "scrip" bills were never redeemed and small collections are still in existence in Wyandotte.

The genius of Eber Ward had managed to endure the financial strains until his death in 1875. Then labor trouble began to harass the company.

On June 1, 1888, at 5:45 a.m. a terrific boiler explosion occurred at the plant which shattered more than the walls and windows of houses



Eureka Iron Company explosion, 1888

and stores as far west as the railroad tracks; it shook the very foundations of the company.⁶¹ The expense caused by this blast combined with labor trouble, lack of cheap fuel and competition brought the industry to its knees.

⁶¹Three men were killed: Patrick Finn, Jr., Harry McCloy, and George Green. The emotional impact of this explosion has never left the memory of the citizens and Julius Clauss credits the yearly memorial masses held for the deceased of this accident as the most important reason for the final demise of the Iron Industry.

John S. Van Alstyne, in desperation, sought to save the company and employment in 1887 by drilling for gas in search of a cheap fuel. Although the operation proved unsuccessful for the Eureka Iron Company, Mr. Van Alstyne reminded his listening audience "that it did prove to be a mine of wealth to those who were in a position to develop it" (Captain John B. Ford), "the far reaching effects of which, yet in its infancy" (Michigan Alkali Company), "should make this region analogous to the Manchester district in England in the variety and extent of its products and will more than fill the place left vacant by the decadence of the iron industry in Wyandotte."



Dismantling the Eureka Iron Works

In 1892, as a last dying gasp, remodeling plans for the plant were discussed by the management. While the matter was under consideration, Mr. W. K. Muir, the president at the time, died, the storm clouds of the 1893 panic began to approach and finally "ill advised and thoughtless hands" set fire to the plate and rail mills.

The time had come from circumstances beyond control to say good-bye to the iron father of the town, to the first industry to bring an opportunity for man to labor and earn his own food and shelter independently.

Editor Dolly Haven of the *Wyandotte Herald* expressed the nos-

talgic farewell of the Wyandotters to its Iron Captain in these words:

"To the present generation, the Wyandotte rolling mill will soon be only a memory; to the next a story told around a hearth. No more will be seen the glow of red-hot iron as it leaves the seething furnace and is fashioned into shape by huge rolls controlled by men of brawn and skill. No more will be heard the shrill blast of whistles calling a new set of men to their turn; no more the heavy pounding of ponderous hammers, or the monotonous thunk-thunk of the blast furnace—sounds once so accustomed to Wyandotte ears that they were only noticed when they ceased. King Iron Is Dead. His kingdom is divided. Nearly a half a score of sovereigns hold divided sway over the territory where once he reigned supreme. Perhaps it is better thus. But we cannot part with the old days—'good old days'—without a sigh. Who can forget the times when wages were up, when money was plentiful and freely spent—how the rough and ready crew gave sleigh-ride parties to Detroit in mid summer—the gaming for high stakes—the inevitable rout and 'painting the town red' that followed pay day? They gave Wyandotte a rough, hard name abroad did those rough toilers of the early time. But who shall say that, in the process of evolution by which local traits are developed and fixed, they may not atone for their wild capers by leaving us a heritage of hospitality, of generosity and of virile force, physical and mental, that we should never have enjoyed but for the character of our pioneers in the 'good old days.' "

Shipbuilding

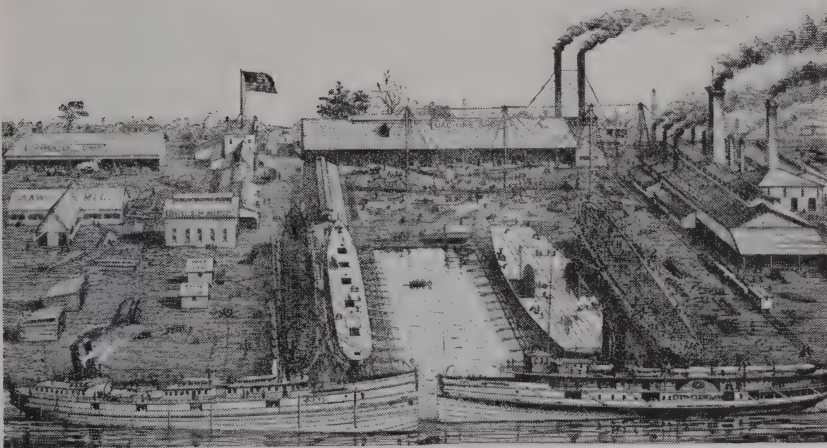
The leadership of Eber Ward directed the future of another industry which affected all life on the Great Lakes—Shipbuilding (1871-1919).

Standing on the shores of the Detroit River, pioneers can point to and remember with pride the great number of vessels built in the Wyandotte yards that still make their way along the straits.

The shipyard was a cherished plan of Captain E. B. Ward, who in the winter of 1871-1872 became acquainted with F. E. Kirby and was much impressed with his knowledge of naval architecture. The result of this acquaintance was that Mr. Kirby, with his brother, Fitz Albert Kirby (Joe), was commissioned to erect the necessary buildings, prepare the plant for work, and proceed to construct an iron tug, the largest ever built. The machine shop and docks were constructed on the Detroit River at the foot of Plum Street, location of the Dupont factory today. Mr. Kirby was exceptionally well qualified for the job, having studied in the best technological institutions in the east and was also the son of a famous Saginaw shipbuilder, S. R. Kirby. George Crassweller, John Teeling, and Seward Stoddard were local pioneers who reported to work one morning at the shipyards in 1871 to construct the first iron boat built at the Wyandotte yards, the "E. B. Ward." This first boat was

completed and launched in August, 1872. Three other ships were built during the same season: "The Queen of the Lakes," "The Myrtle," and the "Sport."

Thirty ships were built before Ward's death. With the settlement of the Ward estate, the shipyards passed into the hands of the Detroit Dry Dock Company, "who had received the year before an order from the Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Company, for the construction of a composite for the Cleveland line." F. E. Kirby, selected to design the boat, suggested to the company that they lease the Wyandotte yard for her construction. This was done and the outcome was the building of



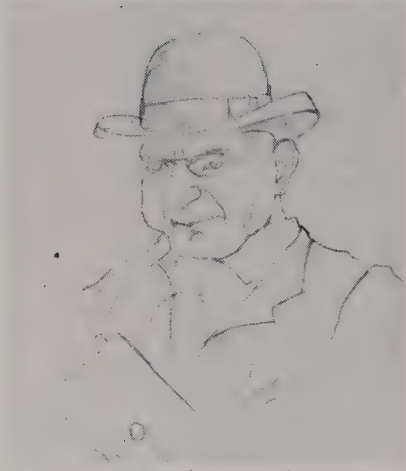
Ship building docks of the Detroit Dry Dock Company

the "City of Detroit I," at that time the finest vessel on the Lakes. The results so satisfied the Dry Dock Company that they purchased the yards in 1877, appointing Frank Kirby consulting engineer and naval architect, and Fitz Kirby superintendent of the business and construction departments.

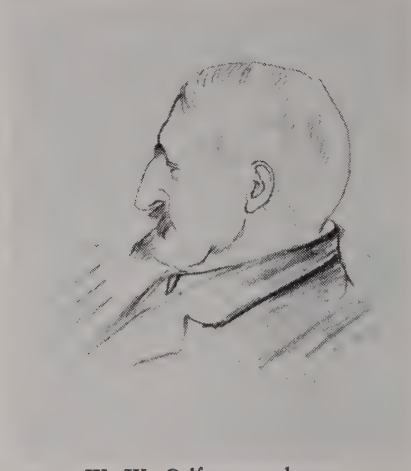
The Detroit Dry Dock Company continued in operational control of the shipyards until 1899 when the American Shipbuilding Company, a trust composed of several companies, including the Detroit Dry Dock, took over the management until the closing of the yards in 1922. Frank E. Kirby continued as designing engineer under the new management, but "Joe" retired as Superintendent at this time.

The Wyandotte plant was essentially for hull construction, while the Detroit plant built the boilers, machinery and upper works. After the launching, the hull was always towed to Detroit for equipment. All

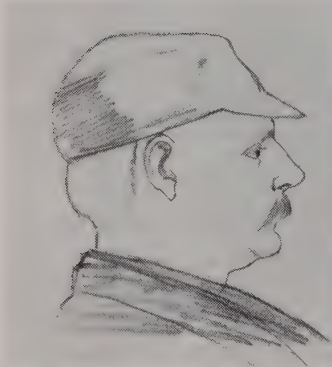
SHIPYARD PERSONNEL*



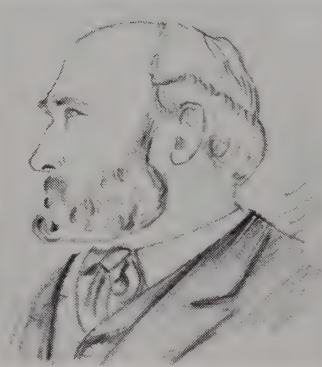
Allan Kirby, supervisor



W. W. Colfax, storekeeper



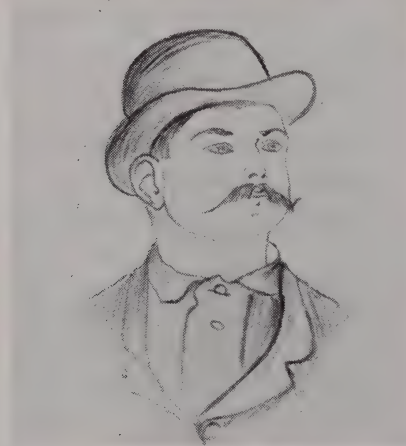
John Rochrig, engineer



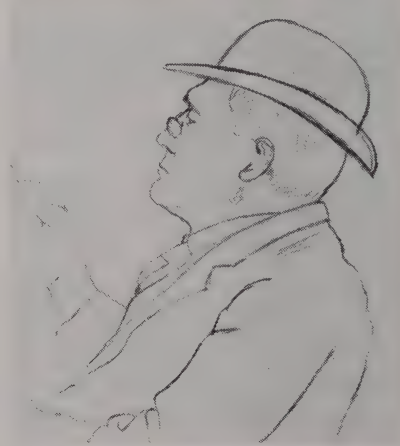
James Henning, master mechanic



Geo. Bryan, foreman, riveters



William C. Conwell,
foreman, carpenters



Geo. Crassweller, superintendent
after "Joe" Kirby

*Candid etchings of fellow employees by Moses Widner Lacy

materials used in the construction of these boats were made under company's own specifications, and Kirby's care in the selection of suitable material is shown in his steel regulations. He made tests of structural steel under the Lloyd requirements and found it lacking in certain elements of strength. He therefore demanded and obtained steel fulfilling more stringent requirements of his own. The wisdom of this policy was shown in the collision between the "City of Detroit" and the "Kasota," a fine new modern wooden steam barge. The "City of Detroit" struck the "Kasota" amidship with terrific force, sinking the barge. The impact wrenched and bent the steel plates of the "City of Detroit" but there was no breakage, either in the plates or rivets, and no leakage that could not be handled by a siphon pump. This was typical of the quality turned out by the shipyards.



Launching of a boat. Children have been dismissed from school to bring lunches to their fathers.

At the outbreak of World War I contracts were received for Norwegian and English cargo ships. With the entry of the United States in the war, all ships built thereafter were for the United States Merchant Marine. During normal times the working crew varied from one hundred to seven hundred men. However, employment reached a peak of four thousand during World War I, requiring ten paymasters to pay off the workers each Saturday.

Launchings of ships were festive occasions. Housewives left their housework, schools were dismissed, and the heavy atmosphere of suspense and excitement hung over the city the day a ship was completed. The ra-ta-ta of the riveters' hammers was silenced, a moment of breathless tension preceded the sound of crashing glass, and another boat slid down the ways into the deep blue of the Detroit River, amidst shouts and cheers of a happy throng.

It was Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock on Lincoln's birthday, 1890, that the steel side-wheel passenger vessel carrying a historic engine, one that had ridden the "Sherman" during the Civil War, and propelled the "Alaska" until her fatal accident, hit the river. As the hull neared the water, Captain A. D. Fox who sailed the "Alaska" and was in command of this new vessel, hoisted a pennant bearing the name "Frank E. Kirby," complimentary to the talented and widely known construction engineer. Surprise registered on the faces of the crowd present, since Mr. Kirby had always declined to be so honored. The fact he had consented in this instance must indicate that this boat was truly exceptional in quality.

Stories have been told and retold of the many challenges she had accepted and won; races with the "City of Alpena," "City of Mackinac," "The Greyhound," "Idlewild," "Columbia," "Arrow," "City of Toledo," and "City of Erie."

"She was, indeed, a success from the start. She put a record of two hours and fifty minutes for the sixty mile run to Put-In-Bay from Detroit. This record has never been equaled and likely never will be as, in the old days, the steamers could speed in the Detroit River, while now they must check down, owing to channel regulations."⁶²

If poetic license may be granted and the emotion of love be attached to inanimate objects, then we may truthfully state that every Wyandotter loved the "Frank E. Kirby"—loved it because it represented only the days of the city's laughter, the joy of excursions, picnics, and good times. For many years, until her replacement, the "Frank E. Kirby" ran the route to Put-In-Bay. Every church, school and lodge boarded the "Frank E. Kirby" for their outings. Although the Put-In-Bay boat entered the route in 1911, the "Kirby" continued to sail until 1920 when she was sold.

In recognition of her unexcelled speed and efficiency, the historic background of her engine, and the significance and romanticism of her name, the engine rests today at Ford's Museum, Greenfield Village.

⁶²Dana T. Bowen in "Lore of the Lakes," page 73.

The date July 16, 1892, of the launching of the steamer "Wyandotte" was circled in red on the calendars hanging on the kitchen walls of every Wyandotter's home. This was the boat named in honor of the city itself, and the pride of every man, woman and child arose to the occasion.

This event called for something very special. Public invitation was extended by manager, E. N. Clark, to inspect the boat and enjoy a complimentary ride. The ladies and citizens presented the boat with a handsome onyx clock, the Common Council a silver water service. Elaborate complimentary bouquets filled the cabin and deck with their fragrance. Such names as John N. Clark, S. S. Babcock, Alderman Spears and John S. Van Alstyne headed the program of speeches. Dolly Haven reported that "the presentation remarks were in a happy vein frequently applauded." Mr. Van Alstyne who made the presentation of the onyx clock, described as a beautiful piece of art costing an even hundred dollars, referred to the splendid furnishings, the great speed developed by the boat, and paraphrased Michigan's motto by saying "If you seek a beautiful steamboat, look around you." The enterprise of her owners and the skill of her builders were complimented in "glowing" terms. He closed by wishing the "Wyandotte" good luck, "long may she float, a beautiful palace on the pellucid bosom of the beautiful river." Alderman Spears, on behalf of the city, presented the boat with the silver water service, a pitcher and two cups inscribed "Presented to the Steamer 'Wyandotte' by the City of Wyandotte." He spoke with "his usual felicity." "We are," he said, "all proud of the boat and the Common Council are more than pleased that she has been named after the city of Wyandotte." The wish was expressed "that the boat would always keep up the reputation established and that the passengers might always be as happy as those aboard today."

As the sinking sun cast its evening rays over the steamer "Wyandotte" in the dock at the close of this ceremonious day, the happy Wyandotters went home chattering of this boat being the fastest, best equipped and most commodious steamboat on the Great Lakes. Men spoke of the cozy smoking room situated on the lower deck and the interior finish of oak. The ladies exclaimed over the exquisite taste in carpets, furniture and furnishings everywhere, and of the ladies' retiring room, the finest possessed by any boat on these waters. Children shouted, "She came from Detroit in thirty-five minutes," repeating Mr. Van Alstyne's phrase "Long may she live." The older folks who had seen twenty years of shipbuilding and countless ships slip into the busy waters glanced toward the Cana-

dian shore, nodded, smiled and through dimming eyes visioned a fast beautiful ship named at long last in honor of one of the oldest pioneer shipyards on the Great Lakes speeding the straits, a thing of beauty from stem to stern and a joy forever to every Wyandotter.

The closing of this great industry may be told by a shabby lady standing on a pedestal overlooking Bishop Park and the Detroit River.

She sees the children tumble about in their play, swing high, swing low on the park's swings unmindful of the ceaseless boat traffic. Sometimes a ball hits her base, a bicycle bumps into her without an apology. She hears adult passers-by make slurring remarks: "What an ugly piece of art that is." "Who ever thought of erecting that must have been crazy." "I wonder what these dates mean." Others nod in agreement. "That is Wyandotte for you—not much concerned about historic matters—perhaps it is something the engineering department found in a dump." The shabby lady holds her head a little higher, keeps her dignity, looks over the river, watches with envy the smoke billowing from the chain of freighters, hears their whistle blasts, and with speechless regret longs to tell the rough and tumbling children and the thoughtless fathers and mothers the story of her life:

...I was born by the hand of Julius Melchers who copied me from a large figure in stone in the northwest corner of the base of the tower on the Detroit City Hall. I am made of wood. In the year 1880 when the steamer "Boston" was built here, at your shipyard I was placed on top of the pilot house. I was supposed to represent mechanical industry. Ridiculous, wasn't it, in 1880, when mechanical industry was quite unknown? For twenty-five years, I rode the Great Lakes. The storms and gales assailed me; icy water whipped my face; the nights were dark: the waters treacherous; loud voices of the sailors shouting orders deafened my ears. As you see, it was quite difficult to keep a wooden dress in perfect condition under those circumstances as ladies will understand. It became necessary for my owners to improve the ship and enlarge the pilot house. Since they were my friends and wanted me to have a good home, I was given to Mr. F. E. Kirby whom you remember as your world famous shipbuilder. Liking ships, he proudly mounted me on top of the office of the shipyards located where your police station is now. It was an interesting change from the turbulent days on the water. I do believe it was much noisier. There was the ra-ta-ta of the riveters' hammers, the buzzing of the carpenters' saws, the laughter and shouting of the workmen, the glee of the children hurrying to the yards bringing father's lunch at 11:30 because it meant having to be dismissed from

school a few minutes earlier. The launchings were, of course, my real joy. I counted at least two hundred. Everything seemed to be going so well during World War I. The grounds swarmed with workmen. You can imagine my surprise after all those years when I noticed an unusual quiet after the close of the war. A few officials loitered about the place, strangers entered the yards, looked around, and left. Faintly, I caught the rumor that high tax assessment was the cause for this inactivity. After the war there were few orders for ships. With shipbuilders it had been a case of feast or famine. Your council members thought that a concern employing a hundred men steadily from year to year at fair wages would be a better thing for the town than a plant that operated spasmodically even though the thousands of men get large pay. So the shipyards, an industry typical of the pioneer period of our country as a whole, was abandoned in favor of more modern twentieth century manufacturing.

Mr. Kirby did not forget me again. He took me to Detroit with him. But I was lonesome to return to the place of my birth from whose docks I had set sail on my first adventure on the Great Lakes. I thought I could still do some good in my old age by telling the children and newcomers to Wyandotte that the waters flowing past their town are full of freighters and traffic because of the help and beginning given by Eber Ward, the Kirbys and the citizens of a great little town, Wyandotte. I am seventy-four years old today, born in 1880, retired to Wyandotte in 1925. Although I still do not look very beautiful in spite of an extra coat of paint to preserve me, I won't mind your careless remarks if you will not forget and will remember the echoes of the splashing of the great steamers for the Great Lakes as they left the ways at the old Wyandotte shipyards. . . .

In the shadow of the larger shipbuilding enterprise, several independent builders responded to the natural advantages of the river and erected shops in which smaller type crafts and pleasure boats were built. David N. Perry built boats at the foot of Orange street under the name Detroit River Boat and Oar Company from 1893-1914; Edward C. Bryan and his brother, William, became well-known in the area for their super crafts from 1904-1951; Edgar A. Davis operated a business north of the present Wyandotte hospital from 1891-1901; and Charles Edson opened his Pleasure Yacht Works in 1897.

WYANDOTTE BUILT SHIPS*

Name	Launched
E. B. Ward	1872
Queen of the Lake	1873
Sport	1873
John Owen I	1874
City of Detroit I	1878
Grace McMillan (changed to Idlewild)	1879
City of Cleveland	June 23, 1880
Car Ferry Transport	1880
Boston	1880
Lehigh	1880
City of Milwaukee	February 11, 1881
Wisconsin	1882
Michigan	1882
Clarion	1882
Brunswick	1882
City of Mackinac	1883
Car Ferry Michigan Central	1883
Albany	1884
Syracuse	1884
Car Ferry Landsdown	May 10, 1885
City of Cleveland	September 9, 1885
Mascotte	April 27, 1885
Susan E. Peck	July 29, 1886
Fayette Brown	May 14, 1887
E. M. Peck	May 3, 1888
Hudson	November 16, 1887
Harlem	July 3, 1888
City of Detroit	September 26, 1888
Thomas W. Palmer	February 9, 1889
Manchester	May 4, 1889
Livingstone	May 18, 1889
John Owen	June 25, 1889
Stephen R. Kirby	May 24, 1890
Frank E. Kirby	February 12, 1890
Maryland	July 14, 1890

*List compiled from notebooks kept by Bert Conwell and Moses Widner Lacy, former employees of the shipyard.

Marigold	November 15, 1890
E. C. Pope	May 2, 1891
Pioneer	May 7, 1892
Mahoning	June 18, 1892
Wyandotte	July 16, 1892
Selwyn Eddy	December 3, 1892
City of Alpena	March 13, 1893
Mohawk	May 20, 1893
City of Mackinac	March 13, 1893
Harvey H. Brown	May 27, 1893
Arrow	March 14, 1894
Argo	1895
City of Buffalo	December 24, 1895
Senator	June 20, 1896
Aragon	May 23, 1896
Sir William Fairbairn	August 1, 1896
Robert Fulton	September 10, 1896
City of Erie	February 20, 1898
America	April 2, 1898
Troy	July 20, 1898
Pennsylvania (changed to Owana)	1899
United States Tug General McWilliams	1899
Tashmoo	December 30, 1899
Angeline	September 3, 1899
Admiral	November 18, 1899
Harvard	May 19, 1900
Simon J. Murphy	June 23, 1900
Howard L. Shaw	September 15, 1900
James Battle	October 13, 1900
David C. Whitney	January 19, 1901
Mars	March 9, 1901
Uranus	April 20, 1901
Hugoma	October 5, 1901
Colonel	July 13, 1901
Yosemite	September 7, 1901
Eastern States	December 7, 1901
Western States	January 18, 1902
Greyhound	February 15, 1902
William Fitch	April 12, 1902
Columbia	May 10, 1902

Munsey	September 20, 1902
Tionesta	December 15, 1902
S. N. Parent	February 28, 1903
Albert M. Marshall	June 27, 1903
A. D. Davidson	August 6, 1903
James H. Reid	May 28, 1903
Western Star	October 3, 1903
F. & P. M. No. 14	December 19, 1903
Utica	April 28, 1904
Amasa Stone	March 15, 1905
Lyman P. Smith	May 27, 1905
Powell Stack House	August 5, 1905
W. K. Bixby	November 15, 1905
E. D. Carter	January 13, 1906
Harry Coulby	March 24, 1906
Sir Thomas Shaughnessy	May 19, 1906
Samuel Mather	July 28, 1906
Brittania	May 12, 1906
W. E. Fitzgerald	September 15, 1906
City of Cleveland	January 5, 1907
J. H. Bartow	February 9, 1907
Charles O. Jenkins	June 29, 1907
Calumet	August 10, 1907
Edwin H. Ohl	September 28, 1907
Thomas Barlum	November 21, 1907
Wainwright	January 25, 1908
A. E. Nettleton	April 11, 1908
Alpena	March 24, 1909
Benjamin Noble	April 28, 1909
Conemaugh	June 24, 1909
Rochester	September 4, 1909
Octorara	December 11, 1909
Arlington	March 19, 1910
Brandon	March 19, 1910
E. H. Utley	May 14, 1910
Allegheny	July 9, 1910
Put-in-Bay	March 25, 1911
City of Detroit	October 7, 1911
Calcite	March 30, 1912
Lucius W. Robinson	April 20, 1912

Seeandbee	November 9, 1912
A. D. MacTier	March 8, 1913
F. P. Jones	March 8, 1913
Drill Boat No. 1	April 26, 1913
Adrian Iselin	March 11, 1914
George L. Eaton	March 11, 1916
Gisla	March 11, 1916
Gaute	May 3, 1916
Vestland	June 24, 1916
Levisa	August 12, 1916
Lars Fostenes	September 7, 1916
Ozama	October 7, 1916
Carib	October 28, 1916
Bacchus	January 6, 1917
War Patrol	January 29, 1917
Angers	April 10, 1917
War Major	April 10, 1917
War Tune	May 10, 1917
Labor	June 7, 1917
War Song	July 25, 1917
War Path	August 11, 1917
War Beaver	September 22, 1917
War Honour	October 10, 1917
War Fox	November 3, 1917
War Martin	November 24, 1917
War Ferret	December 29, 1917
War Hope	January 19, 1918
War Palm	February 16, 1918
War Swift	March 2, 1918
War Thrush	March 20, 1918
War Lynx	April 20, 1918
Lake Ennis	April 27, 1918
Lake Largo	May 11, 1918
Lake Lasang	May 22, 1918
Lake Daraga	June 12, 1918
Lake Damita	June 26, 1918
Lake Benbow	July 4, 1918
Lake Gahona	July 12, 1918
Lake Ormoc	July 25, 1918
Lake Akkra	August 10, 1918

Lake Licking	August 24, 1918
Lake Ypsilanti	August 31, 1918
Goodspeed	September 14, 1918
Goree	September 19, 1918
Lake Gorin	September 26, 1918
Lake Gormanian	September 30, 1918
Lake Grondon	October 23, 1918
Lake Graphite	October 29, 1918
Lake Gratis	November 6, 1918
Lake Grattan	November 27, 1918
Lake Gravella	December 7, 1918
Lake Gravett	November 13, 1918
Lake Gravity	December 24, 1918
Lake Greenbrier	January 29, 1919
Lake Gretna	January 16, 1919
Lake Grogan	January 20, 1919
Lake Flovilla	January 20, 1919
Lake Flume	February 6, 1919
Lake Flushing	February 12, 1919
Lake Flynus	February 15, 1919
Lake Folcroft	February 27, 1919
Lake Sapor	February 27, 1919
Lake Fonda	March 13, 1919
Lake Fontana	March 27, 1919
Lake Fontanet	March 19, 1919
Lake Faresman	April 2, 1919
Lake Gilboa	April 24, 1919
Lake Gilpen	April 29, 1919
Lake Gilta	May 20, 1919
Lake Giltedge	May 12, 1919
Lake Girth	June 14, 1919
Lake Gitano	May 28, 1919
Lake Glasco	June 14, 1919
Lake Fablus	July 1, 1919
Lake Fabyan	June 28, 1919
Lake Fackler	July 15, 1919
Lake Fagundus	July 30, 1919
Lake Fairfax	July 23, 1919
Lake Fairlie	July 30, 1919
Lake Inglenook	August 13, 1919

City of Flint	October 7, 1919
Detroit-Wayne	November 8, 1919
McCreary County	November 19, 1919
Vinton County	November 29, 1919
Hancock County	December 2, 1919
Lake Tresa	December 9, 1919
Lake Falun	December 12, 1919
Lake Tippah	December 19, 1919
Lake Fandango	December 24, 1919
Lake Fandon	December 21, 1919
Montfaucon	March 13, 1920
Chippewa	March 27, 1920
Ononoaga	April 9, 1920
Cayuga	April 22, 1920
Oneida	May 4, 1920
Mertone Farr	September 11, 1920
James Davidson	October 9, 1920

Silver Smelting

Before Eber Ward ended his career in Wyandotte he added one more industry to the city. In the wake of the discovery of silver ore deposits in northern Michigan, he introduced silver smelting in 1872. Three long buildings, constructed of stone from the Sibley quarry, were built on the river front, south of Pine street near the foot of Cherry, and named "The Star Mineral Company." Eventually difficulties occurred in transporting the ore from the north and the source of raw material had to be supplemented by supplies from Colorado. After a factory was built near the Colorado mine, shutting off the supply to Wyandotte, the abandonment of the local concern resulted in 1889.

J. H. Bishop Company

Jerome H. Bishop surprised the city in 1875 by announcing that he was giving up the Superintendency of the public schools and opening a factory.

The J. H. Bishop's Tannery, which became famous for "Bishop's Robes," covered a block on the river front from Chestnut to Superior Avenue.

Using his own patented processes, Bishop first launched into the making of robes and dusters from long wool sheep. Later skins were



J. H. Bishop Company employees, J. H. Bishop with derby in hand

imported for making rugs and coats. Without any previous experience other than teaching chemistry, he became, through hard work and experimentation, an expert in fur dyeing and dressing, an industry which guarded its secrets well. He invented many new processes, especially of long haired furs, and did much to improve the appearance and the usefulness of the cheaper grades. He was the first in this country to import raw skins from China and Russia and dry and dress them in his own factory; so far as he knew also, the first to use Analine dyes on fur. He was among the first to make Hudson Seal from muskrat and to line coats and sleeping bags with sheepskin. He imported skins from China, Russia, Australia, South Africa and Europe. Wool dusters, fur rugs, sheepskin mats, buffalo robes and coachmen's capes formed the bulk of production in the early years. When some of these were outmoded by the coming of the automobile, fur coats, of many types, fur capes and gloves were added. The J. H. Bishop Company carried the name of Wyandotte in trade from Maine to California and supplied a large Canadian trade from their factory at Sandwich, Ontario. At different times offices were maintained in New York City; Boston, Massachusetts; and Seattle, Washington.

For the town of Wyandotte the J. H. Bishop Company meant the employment for some 100 local citizens, both men and women, under favorable working conditions. It is to the credit of the firm that while Mr. Bishop himself was in complete charge of the business, there had never been a strike. Toward the end, the business outgrew his personal supervision.

With the coming of World War I, foreign markets were closed. England bought up the entire fur supply of Canada and prices in this country dropped to a minimum. The company was then doing the largest business in its history. It was impossible to go on. Orders were cancelled and manufactured goods had to be sold at any price. The factory was demolished and the site sold to the city at a modest price for a park rather than to industry for a larger sum.

River Park Hotel

The 1880's mark the romantic time for pioneers when the White Sulphur Springs threatened to overshadow all the local industries in placing Wyandotte on the map in every state in the Union.

Past history shows Wyandotte plentifully supplied with hotels but none which advertised with such fervor:

"Pleasure and Health Resort. Finest Watering Place and Invalids' Home in the Union. A hotel, not a hospital. Steam heated, hot and cold water, gas, etc. Open the Year Round.

These Waters and Baths are Certain Cure For Paralysis, Gout, Rheumatism, Nervous disorders, Female diseases, Bright's disease, Urinary, Liver and Kidney complaints, Catarrh, Piles, Stomach and Blood diseases. Never fails to cure the effect of Youthful Indiscretions. Board by Day, Week or Year. Accommodations for 500 guests. Special rates to Families, Excursion Parties, Physicians, and Ministers. Carriages at all trains and boats."

In response to such luring advertisements, visitors came from all over the country to try the Russian, Sitz, and Electric baths. Side wheeler steamers daily unloaded at its own dock passengers eager to enjoy the hotel's spacious veranda, the chef's tasty meals, the expansive green lawns and trees and the water-front activities of fishing, boating and games. Houses for billiards, pool and refreshments were located conveniently on the hotel grounds. The attraction of this lively place was local as well as national. Many Wyandotters enjoyed the luxury of oysters out of season and other gourmets' delights in the hotel dining room. Sunday promenaders enjoyed walking to the River Park located on the east side of Biddle between Poplar and Walnut and extending east to the river (present location of the Frank Eberts' home), enjoyed loitering outside the fence to catch a glimpse



of new arrivals, oftentimes famous personages, elegantly dressed, relaxing, playing, regaining their health from the life-giving sulphur springs. The musical entertainments at the hotel were open to the townspeople also, and many other citizens have experienced beautiful serenades under their bedroom windows by the hotel's colored waiters after their duties were over.

Although many who arrived in wheel chairs left walking unaided, vociferously proclaiming the wonders of their cure, the financial benefits were not reciprocal. Founded in 1880 by Moses Fields of Detroit and managed solely by out of the city capital and personages, the hotel seemed to be continually plagued by poor, corrupt and ever changing management. Small fires and labor troubles added to the increasing losses until the inefficiencies culminated in a final conflagration in 1889 which extinguished its glory and glamour forever.

D. H. Burrell Hoop and Stave Company

Wyandotte, being blessed with the great assets for industrial production—raw material, power, and transportation—attracted many enterprises using lumber, the chief of which was the D. H. Burrell Company.

The plant was established in Wyandotte in 1885; one mill being moved from Trenton and another from Detroit, combining all in one plant. On the Wyandotte grounds were four distinct mills; one making barrel hoops, one for cheese box and barrel headings, one for staves, and another for cheese box hoops. Each mill had its own engines and boilers. The Wyandotte works was a division of the D. H. Burrell Company's hoop and cheese box material factory in Little Falls, New York, which concern was the largest manufacturer of cheese box material in the United States. R. B. Burrell represented the company in Wyandotte as bookkeeper. John C. Nellis and Newell N. Fairchild were foremen of the two hoop mills, E. L. Hunter of the Heading Mill and F. Fairchild of the Stave Mill. The Hoop mills ran steadily as long as the season remained open, the other two only when sufficient material that could not be used for hoop-making had accumulated.

Lumber again was the reason for this story. Elm logs, plentiful in this area, were hauled in by teams from adjacent farms and woods in the Down River section. Logs also were floated down the river from Chatham through Lake St. Clair and down the Canorr, other side of Fighting Island, from the province of Ontario, Canada. The land around the plant located at the foot of Walnut street was marshy so a



D. H. Burrell Company. Present location of Wyandotte General Hospital



D. H. Burrell Company office

Left to right: John C. Nellis, foreman of the South Mill; Ed Hunter, foreman of the Heading Mill; R. B. Burrell, office man; N. N. Fairchild, foreman of the North Mill; Clifford Burrell, assistant to office man.

canal and bay were dredged to make the boom (known as Burrell Slip today) usable. The boom extended to the channel bank along the edge of which had been driven large piles to which boom logs were fastened. On the south side from the channel bank to the foot of Walnut street was a break-water. This gave a large area for storing the logs and incidentally was the big reason for moving the mills to Wyandotte. The canal made a small island somewhat to the north of the plant known as Bark Island since, when the logs were stripped of bark, the bark was deposited on the slip of land as refuse.

Besides giving employment to an average of 125 men, this plant used a new type hoop machine perfected with the help and ingenuity of the workmen including Curtis T. Fairchild, father of Newell N. Fairchild. The patent was granted to the Messrs. Burrell and Company. It was the most rapid and economical hoop cutting machine ever made. The leading idea in its construction "was to cut the hoops from the log on a bevel and this was accomplished by means of a knife long enough to cut the length of any hoop up to six feet nine inches and cut from the circumference to the center of the log." With the old machine, the log "had first to be sawed into planks and the hoops cut therefrom." "Several processes were necessary and very often hoops would not be of uniform thickness." With the new machine the cut strips passed through the planing machine, the pointer and lapper were resteamed, and then coiled ten in a roll by the coiling machine. It was possible to cut one hundred forty hoops per minute.

The same shortage of lumber as in the case of the Eureka Iron Works sang the swan song of this industry. The Wyandotte plant relinquished its site in 1901-1902 to be replaced later by the Wyandotte General Hospital, the Boat Club House and the Michigan Alkali Company lands.

The Doyle Hoop and Stave Company may be considered the next in importance for the cooperage business by virtue of the fact that from this factory came Wyandotte's first electricity. Edward H. Doyle, another one of Wyandotte's individualistic pioneers, opened his hoop and stave works a year before D. H. Burrell in 1884. He also continued through until February, 1900, when the plant was torn down. The factory was located south of the shipyards on Biddle Avenue and the river front. During the course of years the name was changed from Detroit Cooperage Company to Detroit Hoop and Stave Company and at other times it has been mentioned as Doyle's Hoop and Stave Works.

In 1883 Ralph H. Hopkins opened a planing mill at the foot of Chestnut street in which he manufactured sash, doors, and blinds, and handled lumber, lath, and shingles. It was "considered one of the best equipped wood working shops of the day." Mr. Hopkins continued the business into the 1900's under the name Wyandotte Planing Mill.

The Shelley Hoop and Stave Works, which was established in Wyandotte in the late 1880's, by Cleveland management, occupied a site between Plum and Pine on Biddle Avenue that had been associated with earlier pioneer businesses. This factory had first been used by the Agricultural Works, a business established in 1872 for the manufacture of farm implements. In 1881 the Peninsular Stove Company made an abortive attempt to manufacture stoves in this factory, but the company gave up the project within a year. The Shelley Hoop and Stave Company was forced also to leave the city after the spur line for the Eureka Iron and Steel was removed and complicated their transportation problem. This company is remembered for an unusual payroll custom. The wages were paid off in Canadian money accepted at a discount value in Cleveland but which merchants in Wyandotte honored at full American value. In this way the company saved many dollars.

In the 1880's John L. Whipple, located near the railroad tracks, is remembered for the manufacturing of bent chair stock as well as a celebrated brand of flour.

After Mr. Whipple moved out of town in 1887, the citizens began to feel the urgent need for another flouring mill to take care of the farmer's product as well as to supply the household needs of the city. The urgency was so great that the matter was even given consideration by the aldermen.

Finally in 1893, Theodore Gray opened his mill on Oak street at the corner of Front Street. He had received his training as engineer in the Whipple Mill, where he had worked thirteen years. To show their appreciation to Mr. Gray for entering business, the farmers of the area held a bee and hauled lumber from Ecorse for the new mill. For twenty-four years, Theodore Gray served the community well by selling direct to the consumer and doing a strictly cash business, thereby saving his customers hundreds of dollars of middle man's profits. Mr. Gray retired in 1917, selling the mill to William T. Guntrup of Detroit. The mill was closed and dismantled in 1922.

Some of the other business enterprises listed in the pioneer era seem to be rather unusual for a small town, but they made history and enjoyed success.



Theodore Gray's Flouring Mill, between Biddle and Van Alstyne Boulevard on Oak Street.

The carriage factory of Joseph Girardin, while not large, was a credit to its owner and to the city. Mr. Girardin built fine carriages to order, serving customers outside of Wyandotte as well. One of the finest pieces of workmanship was the hose wagon he built for the city in 1889. Iron wheel barrows and blacksmithing were also industries in his shop. It was located on First Street between Chestnut and Oak until the late 1900's. He had begun his business during the first days of the village.

Present in 1889 was the Wyandotte Furniture Manufacturing Company, making parlor suites, sofas, lounges, etc. Thomas C. Johns made bed springs in the early 1890's and Henry Speck and George Haneke manufactured cigars between the 1880's and 1890's. The Beals Selkirk Trunk factory was opened in 1893, after the city encouraged its establishment through a bonus. This concern has been a part of Wyandotte industrial organization until the present day. A Wyandotte Engine Works under the proprietorship of John Dawson had been noted during the late 1890's.

Since Wyandotte has a majority population of the German nationality

group it has followed that brewing manufacturers should find it advantageous to establish factories in the city. George Marx opened the oldest one in the city and also in the state in 1863 at the foot of Oak Street on the river (present location of the parking lot). After George Marx's death in 1886, his son, Frank, continued the management. In 1896 the organization was re-incorporated under the name Wyandotte Brewing Company. Again in 1904 the name returned to Marx and in 1910 a consolidation was effected with the Eureka Brewing Company which had been organized and established in 1890 on Van Alstyne Boulevard near Poplar Street. National Prohibition interfered with this type of business so that the firm was liquidated in 1936.

There have never been any hindrances to the success of soft drink businesses and Wyandotte has had the advantage of two such firms.

As early as 1884, the Zaddock brothers, Albert A. and John F., opened a soda water business. During the year 1890, George Howe and Christian Schultz purchased the Zaddock interest and continued to manufacture soft drinks under the name Howe and Schultz, until the death of Mr. Howe in 1906. The factory was located between Third and Fourth on Pine Streets.

The year 1894 marked the opening of a competing firm, the "Star Bottling Works," under the management of John J. Kreger. The Kreger family had been one of the earliest to settle in Wyandotte and John had first entered the implement business in 1888 some distance west of Wyandotte. Later he moved his implements into Wyandotte to the corner of Fifth and Eureka Avenue. In addition he handled cordwood. In 1894 John Kreger decided to try bottling soda pop in a small building back of the implement shop. This proved to be so successful that in 1903 Conrad, a son, gave up traveling for the International Harvester Company and joined the bottling enterprise. In 1906 he bought out his father and continued the business independently until the brick structure, located today at the corner of Fifth and Eureka, became a necessary business advancement in 1911. John J., the father, and a brother, John P., re-entered the business at this time to help Conrad in the expansion program. The building reached completion in 1913. Coca-Cola entered the production line in 1923, when Conrad received the contract from William J. Young of Detroit, the first use of this product in this area. The next business step was the incorporation of the Company in 1926. Since the business grew to include a variety of soft drinks the name "Star Bottling Works" was changed to "Kreger Beverages" in 1931. Time had now arrived for the third generation to enter their names in another historic



Group of pioneer factory workers, Michigan Alkali

Wyandotte business—John C. Kreger in 1933, William E. Kreger in 1935, both sons of Conrad P. Kreger. After Coca-Cola became a popular national beverage, the firm limited its production to this one drink and changed the name to “Wyandotte Coca-Cola Bottling Company” in 1938. John P., the brother, left the firm in 1941 and Conrad, as president, and his sons have continued the management to the present day.

Michigan Alkali

In spite of the evidences of progress all about and the possibilities of future development, a heavy spirit of gloom hung over the town during the late 1880's and early 1890's. Older citizens still remember that the



Michigan Alkali's first office force—C. H. Nixon left, M. R. Woods in front of door

country had just emerged from a severe depression, the citizens had grown weary from battles for light and street car service, and to heighten the gloom the city had just learned it was about to lose its principal industry—The Eureka Iron Works and Rolling Mills. The town was suffering also from too many “croakers” walking the streets, or mumbling over their beers, always ready to throw their neighbors into a state of fear and panic. “It made no difference to the ‘croakers’ whether it was a nice house built; according to Dolly Haven, they would reply: ‘He must be a fool to build such a nice home in a town like this’; when it was the street car service—‘Oh, pshaw, it will never pay here.’ The electric light plant brought this response: ‘Oh, those fellows are going to make our taxes eat us up.’” So when a small notice appeared in the Local Brevity column of the newspaper, *Wyandotte Herald*, May 2, 1890, that

"a stranger was in the city yesterday getting information concerning the amount of salt encountered during the boring of the Eureka Iron Company's gas well," it meant nothing to the inhabitants of the "dreariest town in Michigan." The stranger was told "that about five hundred feet of salt was bored through altogether, and that the article was of excellent quality." He was told further "the nature of the rock gone through, and that the water rising from the well was remarkably pure." This fact highly gratified the stranger. He gave no reason for his visit but the progressive and hopeful citizens including the town editor surmised from this and other circumstances that "he represented one of the New York Salt companies and was looking for a good location to sink a salt well." Dolly Haven predicted further "that it is possible a new and important industry may be added to Wyandotte business interests." To this the "croakers" replied: "Pshaw! What are you talking about? They won't employ more than four or five men. It's all wind."

Suddenly on October 17, 1890, the newspaper heralded: "A Big Boom Coming. Best News the *Herald* Has Printed in Ten Years." The South Detroit Development Company had announced the purchase of huge tracts of land south of Wyandotte to be partitioned into building lots and for manufacturing purposes. Captain J. B. Ford, founder of the plate-glass industry, in America, was also one of the purchasers of a tract of land along the river just within the southerly boundary of Wyandotte. Both the South Detroit Improvement Company and J. B. Ford claimed they were here to stay. Mr. Ford needed soda ash for his plate-glass industry. "The croaker society was invited to give up its charter and fall into the ranks of good society, to speak well of their city, try and help it along and put it where it ought to be as far as in them lay the power."

Drilling was necessary for several months to ascertain the quality and quantity of salt in the earth, but finally on February 20, 1891, a new vein was struck and boring ceased. The drill penetrated only a few feet into the second vein below 900 feet but the company was satisfied with the quantity encountered—the richest deposit yet found in the state of Michigan. That same week Captain J. B. Ford, accompanied by his sons, J. B. and E. S. Ford, and John Wayman, arrived in Wyandotte to inspect the results of the drilling and to assure the citizens that "inside of a year and a half he would be giving employment to eight hundred men."

The continuation of this story can be told by every man, woman, and child in Wyandotte. The book "Salt of the Earth," relating the history of the company and the biographies of the illustrious Ford family, rests

on the book shelves in numerous Wyandotte homes. Few are the families that cannot number some friend or relative who has worked sometime during the history of the city at the "sody-ash."⁶³ The picture of Mr. Ford dressed in his familiar high silk hat and long tailed coat, the venerable old gentleman, hurrying off the train at Wyandotte to look into the story of salt discovery, is engraved on the minds of everyone. The story—that while journeying from Monroe to Detroit, Captain Ford fell into conversation with a fellow passenger, W. Van Miller, cashier of the Wyandotte Savings Bank, who told him of the discovery of a thick vein of salt in the drilling for gas by the Eureka Iron Company, and how he alighted the train at Wyandotte instead of continuing to his destination, Detroit—has become a legend. Therefore, we may summarize the story of the beginning of the great firm by briefly stating that the south plant was established in 1891, followed by the north in 1895, the Bicarb plant in 1897.

By the turn of the century in 1899, the Michigan Alkali was no longer a new untried enterprise, but was firmly rooted in the future of the city of Wyandotte. In the development of the Michigan Alkali, Captain Ford was assisted by a loyal group of admiring friends and relatives. In addition to his son, Edward, there were his grandsons, John and Leyden, and Mark Bacon and George MacNichol, sons-in-law of Edward Ford. Among those to leave the employ of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company and cast their lot with Captain Ford at Wyandotte were Captain Samuel Finney, Lincoln Gettleman, John Griffith, Charles Nixon and John Pilston.

In addition to its primary objective of manufacturing soda ash, which entered into the manufacturing of soap as well as glass, the company found itself in a position to enlarge its scope by producing baking soda and caustic soda. These three were sold in bulk and Mr. Ford became interested in the possibilities of utilizing his alkalies to make something to be sold in smaller quantities suitable for household use. The J. B. Ford Company was organized in 1898 for this purpose. Utilizing the compound from the Michigan Alkali Company, it has become one of the outstanding producers of cleaning preparations.

In 1942 the Michigan Alkali and Ford Division were incorporated as the Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation.

In 1899 it was an appropriate time for the "Old Rounder"⁶⁴ of the news-

⁶³Colloquial term. Native Wyandotters use no other term when referring to the first chemical industry in the city—Michigan Alkali.

⁶⁴Title of an editorial column in *Wyandotte Herald*.

paper to remonstrate the citizens: "Just consider, ye barnacles on the ship of progression, the condition of your city after the closing down of the Mills and up to the advent of the soda ash industries. Wyandotte was then the 'dreariest town in Michigan' without spirit or hope to aid her. Contradict me if you will, but can it be disputed that Captain J. B. Ford was not the pioneer in the work of developing the resources that are engaging the attention of capitalists throughout the country? And how that spirit of push can be seen by the mammoth buildings standing north and south of the city! Busy hives of industry are the Michigan Alkali Works, whose lofty stacks belch forth endless wreaths of smoke night and day, year after year, manufacturing products that reach every corner of the earth. Giving employment to over 1,200 men, the Ford industries are a blessing to the city."

In the later twentieth century, with due respect and sincerity, the older citizens joined with the City Council in recognizing the golden anniversary of the company: "that down through the years the company has kept the faith—not only has it been a steady employer of a large number of people, but it has contributed much to the general welfare and happiness of the community. Wyandotte has had practically no labor trouble, a minimum of unemployment and no internal strife, but has enjoyed a stable, consistent growth, with a happy and contented populace."

"Dedicated to the production of merchandise honestly made and honestly sold" the Michigan Alkali of the nineteenth century, the Wyandotte Chemicals Company of the twentieth century, has made the name of Wyandotte a household word in practically every civilized land.

The far reaching effects of the Michigan Alkali Company as predicted by John Van Alstyne were realized immediately by the company taking a leadership in establishing Wyandotte as a chemical center in the world. In 1900 the Pennsylvania Salt continued to develop the chemical importance of the town by erecting its factory south of the Michigan Alkali plant. On the Pennsylvania Salt's fiftieth anniversary, the company recorded its story in a book entitled "Prologue to Tomorrow," which enhances book shelves in many Wyandotte homes and is available for loan from the local library. Since 1900, four other companies have added their names to the chemical registry with plants in south Wyandotte.

The Bakelite Company, division of the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation, started in Wyandotte in 1911 under the name Halogen, later called Halowax. In 1922, the Bakelite Company took over the division in a merger and in 1939 the Bakelite Company consolidated with the Union Carbide and Carbon as a division.

Although the Sharples Solvents Company, which had been established in 1925 in West Virginia, settled in Riverview when it came into this area in 1932, it became associated with the general chemical industry of Wyandotte by virtue of the number of Wyandotte employees and by the merger with the Pennsylvania Salt Company in 1951.

E. I. Dupont de Nemours started business in Wyandotte at the beginning of the war years in 1941 with a specialty in trichlorethylene.

Werner G. Smith Division of the Archer-Daniels Midland Corporation completes the strictly local group of chemical industries which employ more than two hundred people. It was established in Wyandotte in 1929.

Reminiscent of the iron and steel era of the past are the foundries and small machine factories, which supplement the city's chemical dominance. The list includes: the Detroit Brass and Malleable, established in 1910; the McCord Corporation (gaskets) in 1915; Great Lakes Manufacturing and Foundry Company (castings) in 1932; and the Diamond Screw Products in 1938. All of these firms had been previously organized in Detroit, and came to Wyandotte upon invitation or as branches of a parent firm.

When Morris Birnbaum commenced his business of scrap iron and metals in 1904, in the shadow of the dismantling of the Eureka Iron Works, it was little realized that his activity would extend beyond the city limits and become the "aristocrat of the post-war industries."

The pioneer stove industries have their counterpart in the twentieth century with the Sauer Cooperage Company, organized in 1926.

There are two businesses in the city today which originated in Wyandotte, by Wyandotters, and carry the city's name far and wide: the All Metals Products Company and Wyandotte Paints. With the product stamped "Wyandotte Toys," the All Metals have rated the second largest makers of toys in the nation. The company was first organized in 1920 to manufacture automobile parts, but in the fall of 1921, it was decided to make toy guns. From 1921 to 1929, under the presidency of Arthur W. Edwards, the firm manufactured "pop" guns and air rifles exclusively. At this time, other mechanical toys were added, such as toy automobiles, dump trucks, airplanes, etc., while still maintaining its position as the largest manufacturer of toy guns in the world. In 1951 C. L. Edwards, Mary Reberdy, and the estate of Arthur W. Edwards sold the interest of this firm to other stockholders which re-organized the company under the following directors: Morris Birnbaum, Charles Block, Charles Haskill, Allan Morgan, John D. Scarbrough, and Jacob Schapiro. One plant of the concern was removed, at this time, to Martins Ferry, Ohio, "in order

[as the directors explained] to be close to their source of steel, improving the basic supply of raw material."

The Wyandotte Paints, the only manufacturer of this product in the Down River Area, was organized in 1932 by Arthur A. Edwards, C. Lee Edwards, and C. A. Brethen, Sr. Today Charles Brethen and his son, Charles A. Brethen, Jr., are in charge of the business. Although the greater amount of the paint is used in Detroit and Wayne county, it also may be found on the shelves in stores throughout Michigan.

The fact that the dominance of the larger manufacturing interests has overshadowed the smaller operations in publicity, does not lessen the value or importance of these smaller firms in their contributions to the dynamic industrial power emanating from the city. Garden and household tools, aluminum screens and windows, milling fixtures, drill jigs, steel tubing, cement products, building supplies, brooms and miscellaneous machinery have also provided "busy hives" of employment, keeping many hands active and useful for the betterment of themselves and the city.

To complete the whole picture, one must not overlook another source of raw material which influenced the prominent fishing industry of the pioneer era. The Indians were the source of information that "the river teemed with fish, so many that it was necessary for them to draw up in lines to let the ships pass through." The story did not seem to be an exaggeration when later thousands of barrels of fish were processed at the Grassy Island and Mama Juda fisheries in the Detroit River. The happy results of this labor brought a great deal of pleasure to Wyandotters as they silenced the children and strained their ears each night to hear the beautiful harmonies sung by the French fishermen, in unison with the dipping and lifting of the oars, after the sun had gone down and the nets were taken up. The advance of the modern convenience of sewerage dumpage into the Detroit River and the increase of boat traffic hastened the departure of this enterprise.

Important to the economic welfare and solvency of the community are the financial institutions which help the city to expand and prosper. After the first bank (the Wyandotte Savings) had been founded in 1871, the number of such businesses increased with the growth of the area.

In 1893 the First Commercial Bank was organized which necessitated the erection of a new building at the corner of Elm and Biddle Avenues. A few years after the inception, a re-organization was effected under the name People's State Bank. This organization replaced the older bank building in 1925, with the new structure now used today by the Provident

Loan Company. Late in 1929 the bank was renamed the People's Wayne County Bank because of a merger of its Detroit affiliation.

In 1925 the First National Bank was organized and a building constructed between Maple and Sycamore on Biddle Avenue, approximately the location of the first Marx theater.

The year 1930 marked the advent of another bank, the American State Bank, which was responsible for the erection of the building at the corner of Maple and First Streets. The American State had formerly been the Ford State Bank located near the Alkali plant on Biddle Avenue. At the opening of the building, it was the outside illuminated building clock which attracted most of the attention and was expected to be a "very popular landmark of the community." State banking commissioners closed its doors in 1931.

A Wyandotte Industrial Bank also received a charter in 1929, but did not continue.

The conditions of the Great Depression and the bank closings erased the names People's Wayne County Bank and the First National of the 1920's. In place of these two banks the First National Bank, in operation today, was organized in 1933, taking over the American State building and the assets and liabilities of the former banks.

The first to render the services of savings and loans associations was the Down River Federal Savings and Loan Association in 1934. The Guaranty Savings and Loan Association followed in 1950.

The continual financial stability of the community provided ample opportunities for the establishment of the advantages of Credit Unions. There are a total of ten in Wyandotte: Wyandotte Chemical Employees Credit Union, 1938; Sharples Chemicals Employees Credit Union, 1946; Detroit Brass and Malleable Employees Credit Union, 1948; Bakelite Employees Credit Union, 1949; Wyandotte Columbus Federal Credit Union, 1949; Wyandotte School Employees Credit Union, 1951; Pennsylvania Salt Employees Federal Credit Union, 1951; Wyandotte Governmental Federal Credit Union, 1951; Wyandotte McCord Employees Federal Credit Union, and Archer Daniels Midland Employees Credit Union (date not stated).

Industrial security has been responsible for the welfare of these financial institutions, but in turn the reports of the banks and similar businesses have been the barometers of the economic stability and resulting growth of the community. The citizens have pointed with pride to the steady rise of financial assets and to the leadership the small town of Wyandotte has been able to achieve in the broad concept of industrial America.

CHURCHES

"Lord, how can they go on who know not Thee;
Know not a place where they may lay the load
Down for a moment by the long, steep road,
And rest their souls, and stand erect and free!"

Winifred Stoddard LeBar
"The Unbelievers"—poem*

MAN builds a house for the needs of his body and a church for the needs of his soul. Their well being is interdependent. Burdened with grief or anxiety, he finds little comfort in the most palatial of homes; he goes to the house of his God for aid and solace his own roof-tree cannot give him.

Throughout the ages, this has been his instinctive pattern, whether his deity be a pagan idol or the God of the Jews and Christians.

Students of history have pointed out that "the vitality and strength of a people are in direct proportion to their morality and religious practice." It has also been declared that any government is in danger of collapse whenever the principles upon which it was founded deteriorate. The founding of our country and the establishment of our basic concepts as set forth in the constitution have gone hand in hand with the principles and practices of Bible-reading Christians.

By the hands of the Spanish and French explorers, a church cross was planted alongside the flag in declared territory. In the settlement and colonization period of American history the stories of Puritans and Pilgrims and the numerous historic churches remaining today in the former plantation colonies are mute witnesses to the march of "Christian Soldiers" into the new land. Christian principles dominate the tumultuous events and historic decisions of the revolution period, church walls echoing with the epoch making and stirring speeches of the Adamses, Patrick

*One stanza reprinted through the courtesy of the editor of the magazine "Preservation of the Faith."

Henry, and others. The Christian heritage has continued to express itself in the modern age through the presence of chaplains in our governing bodies, educational and recreational functions and on the battle fields.

The early settlers of Wyandotte were no exception to the rule. The first expression of the Christian religion invaded Wyandotte territory long before the white man built a village. It is recorded that as early as 1816 "a freeman of color," John Stewart, arrived in the Indian village as a Protestant Methodist Missionary.

To state definitely which has been the first church in Wyandotte is a difficult task since the interpretation of what is meant by church differs with each person. To some the "oldest church" might mean the time when the first gathering of persons met as a body for religious services; to others it would mean the physical structure of a church edifice. This dilemma of decision has been evident in Wyandotte. If we wish to interpret "church" in the first definition then we must accord the Methodist the first position in 1855. If we use the second interpretation mentioned, then the honor must be given to the Roman Catholics at St. Charles (later St. Patrick's) in 1857.

In the beginning of the village life, the Methodists formed their congregation under James E. Davidson at the home of Leander Ferguson on Elm Street. The first Methodist preaching was held at his home. The members of the class were: Lorenzo D. Barr, Mary Barr, Harriet and Beulah Brinton, George, Elizabeth and Josiah Parks, Leander and Maria Ferguson, Silas and Lucy Clark, Franklin and Sybil Nelson. Shortly after, the meetings were transferred to the Old Brown School house on Chestnut Street. In this building the services were conducted according to the early New England practices. The room was divided into two sides, one for the men and one for the women.

In 1861 the first Methodist church building of a New England style architecture was dedicated on the same site of the present church, corner of Oak and Biddle Avenue. The Reverend John Levington took over the pastorate that year. Prior to that time, the Reverend D. C. Jacokes and Reverend William Benson of Trenton had presided.

In this pioneer church, with its tall spire pointing sharply skyward, the exhortations of the dedicated ministers and zealous members, from the wooden old-fashioned pulpit flanked by lamps, carved an influential niche in the life of the city. In the development of this church's spiritual strength it was stated that "the Methodists were not above chopping wood, making a gossamer for a horse," driving cows and blacking boots to earn a few dollars to contribute to their church.

On June 12, 1899, the cornerstone of the new building was laid and the completed structure was dedicated November 26 of the same year. This building has served the congregation for the past 54 years with a few alterations from time to time.

In 1951, the Board of Trustees announced the purchase of the Nixon property located on the northeast corner of Oak and First streets. It was planned to use one of the buildings on the property to provide additional space for the church-school program until the erection of a new building.

At the present time, almost one hundred years after the first class of fourteen met at the home of Leander and Maria Ferguson on Front and Elm streets, the number of parishioners of the First Methodist Episcopal Church is in the neighborhood of one thousand.



First Methodist Church, corner of Oak and Biddle Avenue, on the left; Thon funeral hearse and carriage; Presbyterian Church, corner of Chestnut and Biddle, at right.

The first formal church structure was St. Charles Roman Catholic Church built in 1857 on land deeded to the Right Reverend Peter Paul Lefevere and dedicated to St. Charles Borromeo by the founding French from Ecorse.

The many Irish laborers at the Eureka Iron Works brought a need for a Catholic Church building. In these days of rapid transportation going from one town to another is a very simple matter compared to the days back in the fifties when the Catholic families of Wyandotte had to drive or walk to Ecorse every Sunday to worship at St. Francis Xavier. A church building in Wyandotte became a necessity. The Reverend

Charles DePreiter in charge of the parish at Ecorse established the mission in Wyandotte and became its first pastor.

St. Charles was built on the present site of St. Patrick's and was a two story, frame building, the ground floor of which was used as a rectory, the upper story as a church. It was a plain, utilitarian structure in a beautiful setting, for in those days the grounds were adorned with a pond on which white swans floated, gladdening the not too cheerful eyes of the pious but sleepy souls attending early mass.

In 1873, during the pastorate of the Reverend William DeBeaver, the cornerstone of a larger and more beautiful church was laid, a brick structure which would boast stained glass windows like those in the "Old Country." However, when the walls were ready to receive the roof, disaster struck. A high wind razed one of them and before it could be rebuilt, the rolling mills, where many of the parishioners worked, were shut down. A loan was obtained so that the wall might be rebuilt and the roof put on, but there was no money available for further construction. The idled workmen and their families were obliged to subsist on cornmeal mush and molasses with now and then a few potatoes, turnips, and cabbages dug out of a pit in their back yards. They economized spiritually as well by sharing a pastor with St. Joseph's parish, which had



St. Patrick's Church at the left, St. Charles' Church at the right, which was removed to the corner and used as a school.

been organized two years earlier. The two parishes were administered by one pastor until 1887 when the Reverend Charles Sattelle was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Church.

Not until 1883 was construction resumed and the church dedicated under the spiritual guidance of Reverend C. J. Roeper. Three years later, Father Roeper began the construction of a sisters' house, which after sixty-eight years, although altered and enlarged, is still housing the Immaculate Heart of Mary Nuns. During Father Laugell's pastorate the rectory was completed in 1889.

In 1906 the former St. Charles Church, the first church building in Wyandotte, dilapidated from a half century of hard wear, was torn down, and a new brick school was erected. It was the first school in Wyandotte to boast an auditorium and was a source of pride and joy. By 1914 the building had become inadequate and was extended. In the same year the front of the church was remodeled, "... the funds for this improvement coming from a purse presented to Father Hally on the occasion of the silver jubilee of his priesthood."

St. Patrick's has grown enormously since 1854. The pastor and two assistants celebrate six Sunday Masses and three daily Masses every week although the city now has four more Catholic churches within its immediate boundaries than it had in pioneer days.

Before the chartering of the city in 1867, there had been founded in addition to these first churches, a Presbyterian, an Episcopalian, and a Lutheran denomination. By the close of the pioneer era and the rise of the modern period in 1900 the major denominations had been established and were exercising a definite influence on the life of the city. The Methodist in 1855, St. Charles, Roman Catholic in 1857 (St. Patrick's after 1888), St. Stephen's, Episcopal in 1859, Trinity Lutheran in 1861, St. Joseph's, Roman Catholic in 1870, St. John's Evangelical in 1870, Congregational in 1892, Immanuel Lutheran in 1894, First Baptist in 1896, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Roman Catholic in 1899, and a sporadic attempt of the Salvation Army during the 1890's. The presence of gospel wagons and street singers was also noted during this time.

In reviewing the history of the churches of the city there has been revealed a power emanating from these structures which has represented a symbol of the religious heritages from centuries past, a power that has produced a leavening effect combating the encroachments of industrial materialism and has strengthened the city's growth through the collective faiths of the people.

The ancient spirit of missions activated the early churches. St. Charles



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Parish Hall used by Congregationalists until new church erected. Oscar Brinton in foreground.

was established as a mission from Ecorse, and every Protestant denomination was started as a mission out of Detroit. The Reverend George Duffield of the First Presbyterian Church of Detroit, and later the Reverend James Nall, a Congregational minister of Detroit, presided over the early beginnings of the Presbyterian church; Reverend Milton Ward of St. Stephen's church in Detroit was persuaded to assume responsibility for the Episcopal Church of Wyandotte; Professor C. Schaller, pastor of Trinity Church in Detroit, organized the German Lutheran Congregation which later became known as Trinity Lutheran Church of Wyandotte; the First Baptist church was organized as a mission school in 1896 by the Reverend J. E. Littell, Colporteur of the American Baptist Publications Society. This same missionary spirit has continued with the expansion of territory and the movements of population. St. John's Evangelical church was one of the first to establish a mission out of Wyandotte in 1883 at Taylor Township named St. Paul's Evangelical. The Roman Catholics sought to relieve the overflow from the mother churches in Old Wyandotte by establishing St. Elizabeth's in 1924 in annexed Ford City, and St. Helen's in 1925 in the south end of Wyandotte. St. Pius, Roman Catholic established in 1950, recognizes the needs of the people in west Wyandotte. St. Stephen's Episcopal church also looked to the expanding west and fulfilled their

Christian duty by guiding the organization of a new mission, Grace Chapel in 1953. The Presbyterians today are making plans to build a church following the westward movement of its congregation. The Lutherans, not forsaking their people who were establishing homes in new territory, established Peace Lutheran on Fort Street in 1946. The Methodists reached into the western limits and organized Glenwood as a Sunday school unit in 1935, established the church in 1940 in a building at 14th and Oak and erected a stone structure at Northline and 21st in 1949.

The leaders and builders of the city have carried their religious responsibilities seriously, correlating their business and industrial efforts with the growth and development of the city's churches.

Eber Ward and the Eureka Iron Company donated lots for each of the pioneer churches with the exception of Trinity Lutheran whose church history states that twenty-five dollars was paid for the land, a token price since lots were selling for two hundred to three hundred dollars each. Many of the lots were donated in the area between Superior Boulevard and Oak Streets, where the first school had been built. Until the churches were erected, every Protestant denomination used the Old Brown School for its service, granting this building the historic significance of being the cradle of the Protestant churches in Wyandotte and giving this area the title "Piety Square." Eber Ward continued his religious interest in the Episcopal church by chartering a boat in the name of St. John's and Christ Church of Detroit for a benefit excursion out of Wyandotte. The steamer succeeded in bringing the Detroit people to Wyandotte, but the motor failed at the Wyandotte dock and the tickets for the excursion had to be refunded. Nevertheless a profit of \$600 was gained for the continuation of the church building.

Following Eber Ward, members of the Ford family, the founders of the Michigan Alkali (Wyandotte Chemicals today) have generously supported religious efforts of the city. The Methodists experienced a reward for devoted faithfulness one Sunday morning in February, 1899, when the Reverend C. E. Allen stood praisefully at the wooden pulpit and in a voice trembling with joy announced that Captain John B. Ford of the "sody-ash" industry had donated \$10,000 toward the erection of a new house of worship.

One of the members recalls "that many of those present were moved to tears and the doxology was sung several times." Simultaneously, hope and enthusiasm were given a rebirth in the Presbyterian church through



First Congregational Church. Built by Jerome Holland Bishop.

the same gift of \$10,000 by Captain Ford for the purpose of a new edifice. The new church was dedicated during the week of May 11, 1900, at the corner of First and Chestnut and is the same building in use today with improvements and alterations. The old church site at the corner of Biddle and Chestnut was sold to the Michigan Alkali Club and arrangements were made to move the former chapel to Ecorse for use as a Presbyterian mission. In August, 1909, E. L. Ford, son of Captain John

B., and a member of the parish presented the congregation with the gift of a manse. Again in 1902, John B. Ford, Jr., entered the history of the Episcopal church by sharing half of the expenses of an improvement program and in 1904 cancelled the parish's existing debts. From 1890 through the years until World War II the Ford family donated a yearly Christmas check to each church and denomination in the city. Portraits of Captain John B. Ford grace the halls of both the Methodist and Presbyterian church as a grateful memorial to this leader's contribution to their growth and development.

Jerome Holland Bishop in 1892 assumed dominant leadership in establishing the Congregational church. He was quoted as stating, "The object is to occupy a field not at present filled by any church in the city. . . . Some few of us who have been accustomed to attending religious services are at present without a church home and we feel that with those already here and the accessions that will come with the city's growth, there is room for another church that will not conflict with those already in the field. A site has not been selected, but we will have a neat brick church comfortably furnished that will at least be as fine a house of worship as any in the city." He fulfilled his dedicated mission first by fitting out the Old Brown School, which he had purchased in the meantime for a warehouse, with carpeting and tasteful decorations to make it "homelike and cheerful." June 21, 1902, marked the "most touching and dramatic" moment in the history of the church, the dedication of the present church building, a gift of love from Jerome Holland Bishop. It is a beautiful early English Gothic church building, and was considered at the time of its erection "one of the choicest of the smaller ecclesiastical buildings in the state." He hired the architect, drew up the plans and gave the church outright without attaching his name to it. The architect, however, had the Bishop family's coat-of-arms carved over one door and surprised him with it. As the motto "For God and the Church" is in Latin, and his name does not appear, he allowed it to remain.

Mr. Bishop's interest and support were not confined to his own church. He gave regularly to the local Catholic and Lutheran churches. His gift of one hundred dollars toward the new Polish church of Mount Carmel in west Wyandotte was recorded in the local newspaper. He believed in the tithe system and gave one tenth of his income to the Lord's work, the account being carried on his business ledger.

Although Mr. Bishop has passed to his heavenly reward, his inspirational leadership still guides the congregation which has always attempted

to show their gratitude by building upon his message delivered at the dedication of the church: "I hope God will always be found in this church, and it will always stand for the upbuilding of HIS cause."

Not only in the Congregational church, but in every church in Wyandotte dedicated citizens have sought to place God in a church building and "upbuild HIS cause." After the close of a day of tiring labor many placed their hands upon a brick or a piece of wooden siding placing it upon a similar one of his brothers' or neighbors', adding inch by inch, day by day, like the builders of the medieval age, to the completion of a symbol of their faith in God. The sidelight on the history of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic has been related by Father Albert George:

"In the late sixties the Irish became the dominant nationality in Wyandotte and had things pretty much their way in the old St. Charles. A delegation of Germans called on Bishop Borgess who had come to Detroit on May 8, 1870, and asked the bishop for a priest for themselves. The Bishop told them that since they had no church or rectory he could not satisfy their request. This group of Germans returned home with the determination to build the required structures. This hard-to-believe fact they accomplished in one year (doing the labor themselves). They then returned to the Bishop's house to repeat the request."

Later in the twentieth century this same performance was repeated by the First Baptist congregation in the building of their new structure at the corner of Ford Avenue and 20th Street in 1949. The cost of the building was materially reduced by the many hours of labor and skill contributed by church members.

The minute books and records of church activities continue to list the number of memorials in stained glass windows, pews, altars, station of the crosses, organs, hymnals, chandeliers, pulpits, pulpit furniture which have been donated by the parish members to the glory of God, and beautification of the church structure. Bazaars, socials, and "experience" projects have provided the medium for fund raising to liquidate debts and expand building programs.

The early churches were patterned after the New England style architecture of plain square lines and tall spires, such as the First Methodist's and the First Presbyterian's pioneer buildings. Trinity Lutheran and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic followed the same lines in brick. Today, Immanuel Lutheran, The Christian church, formerly the First Baptist on Ford Avenue, St. John's Evangelical and the first building of the Peace Lutheran still retain the New England style features.

The new churches of the Congregationalists and Presbyterians have led in introducing modified Gothic forms, and Mount Carmel impressed the city in 1916 with the distinctive features reminiscent of old world influence in their new church of Italian Renaissance. Towers on each side of the front are striking features. The interior is furnished in marble and ornamental plaster work. Three church bells christened St. Stanislaus Kostka, The Holy Angels, and Our Lady of Poland, spread glad tidings far over the city.

It has not been an easy task in the face, oftentimes, of uncertain employment and depression periods for the Wyandotters who were the first in line, chartering the various denominations, to accomplish the maintenance of buildings and secure the future of religious freedom for the benefit of the ensuing generations. The spirit of self-sacrifice and physical labor is recorded alongside the names memorialized as ones who fostered religious life in the city of Wyandotte.⁶⁵ Darius Webb, Warren Isham, Amzie Alward, John Robinson, Mary P. Webb, Lizzie Isham, and Maria Louise Harvey, Presbyterians; Dr. E. P. Christian, Henry Denman, Samuel McCleary, John Bennett, William Armstrong, Mr. Jones, Mr. Partridge, Episcopalians; John Neverman and Peter Dinges "with 26 others," Trinity Lutheran; Christian Krieger, Henry Coellen, John Coellen, W. Geier, F. Steinhauer, George Zeiss, Frank Neve, John Lorenz, and Carl Roll, St. John's Evangelical; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Steel, Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Holland Bishop, Mrs. C. Wood, Thomas W. Browne, B. Clive Bishop, Mrs. Lydia Clark, Mrs. Belle Pray Clark, Miss Glendora L. Patterson, Mrs. Florence Rafter, C. H. Clark, Miss Lena Asbahr, Miss Myrtle Kirby, Miss Emma Clark, Mrs. Louise Pray, Miss Emily Ward Pray, Thomas Watkins, Mrs. Isabella Watkins, Miss Mae Girardin, Mrs. W. S. Patterson, and Mrs. C. A. Patterson, Congregational Church; Charles Warmbier, Jr., "with seven others," Immanuel Lutheran Church; Mrs. Fred Gladding and Arthur Edwards, First Baptist Church. In the Catholic churches the following families led in the founding of St. Joseph's: Bittorf, Bigler, Brohl, Caspers, Deichleborer, Eils, Eberts, Levis, Foestel, Foster, Gartner, Geier, Gearling, Grimm, Haubrick, Heiden, Hibbert, Hoersch, Helton, Jonas, Loeffler, Loekner, Melcher, Miller, Mehling, Megges, Monts, Marx, Roehrig, Schweiss, Singer and Shoemaker. For Our Lady of Mount Carmel the following committee members brought a Polish church into reality: Martin Grabarkiewicz, Thomas Biniarz, Michael Sowinski, Grancie Lybik, Martin Ignasiak, and Michael Dolinski.

⁶⁵The list of charter members for all churches has not been made available.

Mayor William E. Kreger had a word to say in 1951 which summarized the achievement of people building their religious heritages. Inspired by the example of the erection of the First Baptist church by the hands of the parishioners he penned:

"This imposing edifice was erected through the unselfish donation of the time, money, and materials needed, all of which shows how men of good will and purpose can shoulder aside the problems of the present to usher in a promising future. The communal principles which are illustrated in the building of this church are the foundation stones of an orderly society. In the simple process of working together for the realization of idealistic concepts, the petty differences and selfish motives of man are submerged in the joy of self-sacrifice and dedicated service. If such worthy dedication unites the world one day in a determined pursuit of creative intelligence and brotherhood; then: the oppressed will experience a true birth of freedom; . . . and the cry of the confused world will achieve coherence and dignity in Christian conduct and exemplary living."⁹⁶

In the pulpits and at the altars of the churches dedicated to divine purposes by the brawn of arms, the nimbleness of fingers, and the needs of the soul have stood many devoted ministers and priests who have sought to guide the people into the paths of the good fulfillment of life, so that the "word of God might have free course in its truth and purity, the sacraments might be administered according to the Savior's institution, and so that thousands might be eternally blessed."

The Reverend Milton Ward, a small, swarthy complexioned man, with a face upon which seldom appeared a smile, assumed his Wyandotte opportunity at St. Stephen's Episcopal church with earnestness and divine purpose. He considered he was coming to Wyandotte "as an ambassador of God." He recognized the fact "the first people coming to this place were skilled iron workers, and earners of large wages in the Wyandotte Rolling Mill, situated in a village which promised large growth and was giving token of far greater importance than the other places . . . and in view of these conditions that the town was in serious need of the denomination (the Episcopal church) which he seriously believed as the 'only gate open to salvation and whose precepts should be planted with a stirring hand.'" However, the congregation learned to know him as a kindly, unselfish leader who lived a life of denial and poverty and whose zeal for converting the earthy Wyandotters prompted an unprecedented show of diplomacy. During the visit of the Bishop for the first confirmation class, several Iron Works' employees decided to

⁹⁶Open Letter, *Wyandotte Tribune*, April 12, 1951.

visit the church to see what went on during a first visit of a Bishop. The precepts were presented with such "a stirring hand" at that service that four of the group joined the prepared class at the altar railing for the laying on of the hands in confirmation. The zeal of Reverend Milton Ward for a soul gained to God was so great that he did not mention a word to the Bishop and permitted the ceremony to continue. Each one of the confirmed men became worthy and devoted members of the church.

In 1887 the Reverend Alois Schmid began his long service at St. John's German Evangelical church which extended into the year 1924. Under "his ministry the church and its organization weathered many a panic and stormy period, continuing its growth and progress." On the occasion of his 25th anniversary at St. John's it was stated that "Mr. Schmid is receiving congratulations on his long pastorate and on the fact that he has exemplified the truth that 'life is worth living in Wyandotte.'"

During the same year, 1887, Father George Laugell became the pastor at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church. He felt the city needed the leadership of the church in the cultivation of the virtue of sobriety. Under his direction, St. Patrick's organized temperance societies; one composed of ladies of the parish, and the other enlisting one hundred male members became the first Holy Name Society. Another early temperance society called Father Matthew's Society is credited to this parish also.

In the 1890's Father Francis O'Rourke replaced Father Laugell at St. Patrick's. A great lover of music, he enriched the city's cultural development by establishing the first conservatory of music in connection with the church's school and by organizing and directing a superb choir which attracted music hungry people from outside of Wyandotte as well as those within.

Father O'Rourke was in turn succeeded in 1894 by Father James Hally. He remained with the parish nearly a quarter of a century, contributing to the material as well as the spiritual welfare of the church, giving generously from his own purse and, by his enthusiasm, inspiring his parishioners to shoulder their share of responsibility.

In other churches the ministers attempted diligently to influence the effects of industrialism through the eloquence of sermons and by setting exemplary patterns of life. The "timely topics" of the day included such subjects as "Law of Personal Purity and Honesty," "The Law of Truthfulness and Contentment," "The Necessity of God in the Problems of the World," "Profanity and Perjury," "Murder and Suicide," "A Holy

Day or a Holiday." The Reverend E. S. Ninde's sermon in the Methodist church on "The Christian Citizen and the Ballot," drew an enormous crowd in 1892. He pleaded for an intelligent citizenship and a denunciation of the growing evil of bribery.

The Reverend Peter E. Nichol, of the Presbyterian church, attracted considerable attention with his advice on the necessity of physical strength in relation to religious growth. Parents were advised "to allow their children plenty of freedom in the open air. The child who romps in the sunshine, making mud pies, and drinking in health and strength, will be better able to cope with the serious business of life than the one who is kept indoors and pampered like a hothouse plant." Applying this advice to adults he continued: "Time should be spent each day in the open air or gymnasium because muscular Christianity was of paramount importance in serving God. The strong man physically will in all probability be able to reach a higher development mentally and morally than the man of feeble constitution."

One minister decided that a better way to insure the way for the gospel to reach all people was to have the church well lighted, thus easily found and entered. He had observed the fact "that saloons and places of amusement all have their fronts well lighted on Sunday nights and nobody has any trouble getting into them, but the entrance to this church is so dark at night that one almost needs a guide to find the way." An electric sign that would light the way and announce the services within was urged as one method of securing desirable publicity. The official board decided to take up the matter of an electric sign as recommended by the pastor.

Apprehensive that Sunday messages might not be reaching all the citizenry, the pastors of the Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches united in a single purpose and planned a program of factory visiting. They explained: "So far as possible the various factories of the city will be visited and the claims of right living and church going be urged upon the workingmen. A splendid feeling of union and fellowship exists among the churches, and these meetings, it is believed, will help demonstrate that the church does have a warm interest in the well being of all the families of the city and that the real teaching and spirit of the Master cannot be hidden through mere differences of culture, creed, or worldly possessions."

No sermon or ministerial activity created as much attention or influenced so many people as those connected with the "Social Sins of the Nation." The voices of the Reverend Joshua Stansfield of the First



Interior, First Methodist Church, 1861. From this pulpit Reverend Joshua Stansfield delivered his scathing sermon on dancing, 1892.

Methodist church and the Reverend Peter E. Nichol of the First Presbyterian proposing on the sin of dancing still ring in the ears of countless pioneer families. The unforgettable sermons, labeled "blistering fulminations," occurred March 14, 1892. In righteous indignation, large numbers of the membership of both churches walked out and became the charter members of the Congregational Church of Wyandotte. However, the powerful personalities of these two dedicated men of God and the sermons they delivered have been engraved as one of the most important events in the church history of Wyandotte. After sixty-two years, copies of the sermons are still cherished as historic lore and the consequences are still whispered over tea cups of reminiscing citizens.

The Reverend Joshua Stansfield continues to be remembered as one of Wyandotte's most colorful and dramatic personalities. "Clear and logical in his reasoning with a choice command of words and an impressive delivery, his public utterances delivered without notes were always listened to with close attention." He drew to himself many warm friends who admired and respected his exemplary private life. The five years Reverend Stansfield spent at the Methodist church proved to be one of the most successful periods in its history.

The Reverend Peter Nichol, equally popular with the Presbyterian

parishioners, decided to leave after the pronouncement of his scathing sermon. The church was taxed to capacity and there were many moist eyes the morning Reverend Nichol preached his farewell sermon. His message was one which exemplified the spirit of the faithful services rendered by the ministers and priests in maintaining the community's spiritual vitality and strength: "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of, for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel." (1 Cor. 9:16)

There have been four other occasions in Wyandotte's church history when the expression of individualism resulted in the formation of new churches.

In 1870, German members of St. Patrick's decided to establish a church in which the German language would be used and which would recognize their nationality requirements (as detailed by Father Albert George). The church was organized as St. Joseph's at the corner of Elm and Fourth streets.

At the same time (1870) a crisis developed in the Trinity Lutheran church regarding the rules and regulations governing lodge memberships. A schism resulted in which many members withdrew and formed the St. John's German Evangelical church at the corner of Fourth and Chestnut. In fact, the lack of understanding on lodge membership had also kept the congregation from joining a synod. The lodge question was settled in 1872 by including a statement in the constitution that stated: "Members of secret societies cannot be members of the congregation." With this clarifying declaration the way was opened for the church to become a member of the Missouri Synod.

The Immanuel Lutheran was the second church to organize as a result of the same question. Their story continues: "Feeling more and more the need to worship in their own church, they undertook to build. Charles Warmbier, Jr., graciously donated the lot on the corner of Sycamore and Fifth streets where the church and parsonage now stands.⁶⁷ With the help of this generous gift and the labor and financial assistance of other members of the congregation, the church was ready for dedication July, 1894." This church became a member of the American Synod.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish was organized in 1899 to satisfy the needs of the Polish nationality group which were settling in Wyan-

⁶⁷The Immanuel Lutheran Church has often been referred to as "Warmbier's church."

dotte during this period in large numbers. Prior to the formation of their own church, the Poles of Wyandotte attended divine services regularly either at St. Patrick's or the German parish of St. Joseph's. Once a month a Polish priest ministered to their spiritual needs. This service was rendered very often by Reverend Vitold Buchackowski from the Polish Seminary in Detroit. In the 1890's the Poles began to plan the building of a church in which they could be instructed and ministered to in their own beloved tongue. Members of the other Roman Catholic parishes helped them to realize their dream. Henry Roehrig, William Gartner, and August Loeffler gave two lots towards the construction of the church. The dedication of the building, corner of 10th and Superior, was held July 8, 1900.

In the religious life of the city there has always been evident a feeling of union and fellowship so that it was not a surprise to the city that it should be accorded the gratifying recognition of the first in the Down River Area to have sponsored an Inter-Faith banquet in May, 1951, at St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church hall. Fellowship expressed itself at first when the Protestant denominations co-operatively used the Old Brown School for services, morning, afternoon and evening. During the year when the Methodists built their first building in 1861, other denominations (with the Episcopalians especially noted) delayed their construction programs because they felt that the community could stand financially only the one building program and it would be more effective to help the Methodists realize their church. As a returned courtesy, the Episcopalians were granted the use of the Methodist building until one of their own could be erected. Whereupon the Episcopalians loaned the use of their organ to the Methodists. Later the Trinity Lutherans loaned the use of their church to the Episcopalians in return for the use of this same organ. The Presbyterians opened their chapel doors to the charter members of both St. John's Evangelical and Immanuel Lutherans while they planned their own churches. The Congregationalists received the co-operation of the Episcopalians for their services in the parish hall prior to the gift of the new church by Jerome H. Bishop.

Although nationality differences separated the Roman Catholics in the early days, they became united through the various organizations of League of Catholic Women, Daughters of Isabella, and Knights of Columbus. Gifts from Protestants and Jews to local Catholic parishes for their religious expansion, and the interest of Catholics rising above creed lines in Protestant endeavors laid the ground work for the recent

inception of the Inter-Faith banquet. A charter member of one Protestant church gratefully relates that they owe their ability to purchase a church building to a Roman Catholic's faith in the congregation's zeal and responsibility. He accepted their mortgage after local banks had turned it down.

From the days when the Congregationalists, Methodists and Presbyterians united for factory visiting there have followed many religious co-operative community activities.

The same churches' Brotherhoods and Men's clubs have sponsored co-operative programs and lecture series. The Congregational and Presbyterians have exchanged ministers and services during vacation periods.

The Wyandotte Association of Ministers has been organized to promote co-operative enterprises, such as Lenten and Good Friday services, Religious Training classes, and to continue the pioneer inspired Thanksgiving Union services.

In 1922 and for several years thereafter, the Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist churches held union services in the city park.

In 1919, a Bible Vacation School for children from five to fourteen years of age and of all denominations was opened at the Presbyterian's church, under the auspices of the Detroit Council of Religious Education. In 1952 the school was sponsored jointly by the Congregational, First Methodist, St. Stephen's Episcopal, and Presbyterian, and in 1953 when the Ford Baptist and Riverbank Evangelical United Brethren joined the sponsorship, the name was changed to the "Down River Community Vacation School."

The United Churchwomen of the Downriver Area was organized to encourage unity and fellowship among Christian women.

The climax of religious co-operative endeavors is the Inter-Faith banquet which is sponsored by the Masonic Order, the Knights of Columbus, and B'nai B'rith. The theme is the "brotherhood of man, and especially his religious brotherhood," or, as Judge O'Hara explained it in the words of Rt. Reverend Fulton Sheen at the first banquet, "the people of the world who believe in God banding against those who do not believe in God" and who would wrest from them the religious freedom which is their American heritage.

The churches have multiplied with the population, and number in addition to the pioneer ones: St. Stanislaus Kostka, Roman Catholic, 1914; First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1915; Ford Baptist, 1916; Riverbank Evangelical, 1919; Christian and Missionary Alliance, 1921; St. Elizabeth's, Roman Catholic, 1924; St. Helen's, Roman Catholic, 1926;

Salvation Army, 1927; Glenwood Methodist, 1935; Christian Church, 1940; Church of God, 1942; Church of Christ, 1944; Assembly of God, 1946; the Seventh-day Adventists, whose place of worship has been at 234 Elm street; and the Jehovah's Witnesses, located at 3549 Fort Street.

For some time the religious guidance of the city has been in the hands of the servants of God whose ministerial and priestly duties have covered twenty years or more of service. Their understanding of the community and the parishioners whose needs they have followed from childhood to adulthood have blessed the individuals with a sense of security in the spiritual realm which they may not enjoy in worldly matters. Once again the community characteristic of traditionalism is observed in the churches: The Reverends F. C. Bauer, Trinity Lutheran, 1897-1926 (deceased); Warren E. Hall, Presbyterian, 1920; Norman H. Jackson, Congregational, 1924; William F. W. Simon, St. John's Evangelical and Reformed, 1924; F. J. Firnschild, Immanuel Lutheran, 1925; C. J. Krahnke, Trinity Lutheran, 1926-1947 (deceased); Leo J. Zindler, St. Elizabeth's Roman Catholic, 1934-1949 (retired, living in Wyandotte); Ladislau A. Krych, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Roman Catholic, 1939.

With a small population of 40,000, the city now has twenty-six places of worship where its people may praise God, thank Him, confide in Him, petition Him, and where they may "lay the load down for a moment by the long, steep road and rest their souls and stand erect and free."

CHAPTER 10

SCHOOLS*

"The public schools are the bulwarks of the nation. Our republican form of government is absolutely dependent upon them. Our boys and girls are made into good citizens through the power and influence of our public schools. Therefore, every patriotic American citizen should be willing to assume the responsibility which devolves upon him, as a good citizen, of accepting when requested to do so, of a nomination for election to the board of education."

Jerome Holland Bishop
Open Letter to People of Wyandotte
Wyandotte Herald
June 28, 1912

IN THE year 1836, when Michigan was admitted to statehood and 76 years before Mr. Bishop wrote his letter to the people of Wyandotte on the importance of the public schools, there was reported the opening of a school on the present site of Orange street, just east of Fourth street known as Ecorse Township No. 2. Mr. Frostic, Superintendent of Schools from 1918-1950, found reports from this same school district in the files at Ann Arbor and Lansing as early as 1842, 1843. However, local citizens have no recollection of any other first school than the little Old Brown School House, erected in 1855 on the ground located on Chestnut, one block west of Biddle (present Masonic Temple) and donated by the Eureka Iron Company.

No data concerning school books, curriculum, modes of punishment, or foibles of school teachers are available. Just the memories of the pupils of yesterday tell us that one of the first teachers was a Mr. Yoe-mans, a name mistily recalled as written with white chalk on the stove pipe of that rusty, old box stove; that it was a "one room structure with another room added to the back end, and a cloak room and side door put in by the early 1870's. Large folding doors separated the two rooms and during events of grave importance . . . the doors were folded back and the school pupils became one body."

*Description of the schools written by Winifred Stoddard LeBar.

Here the three R's were taught together with patriotic songs and hymns which encouraged them to be better individuals and, consequently, better citizens. "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty," imparted a warm and tender glow to the hearts of children whose parents or grandparents, fleeing persecution or poverty or both, had come from European shores in the "hould" of a sailing vessel to the land of freedom and opportunity. And, "I washed my hands this morning so very, very white," with the later admonition, "Little feet be careful where you lead me to," no doubt helped many a child to recognize and turn aside from dangerous paths which might have led to betrayal of God or country.

This building contained ample room until the 1860's, when the Board of Education was compelled to rent part of the Jackson house at the corner of Eureka Avenue and Third street, and another room over Kaul's store in addition to the Old Brown School. The next movement toward enlarging the capacity of the schools was made a little prior to 1865. The Board of Education then instructed School Director, Francis Murphy, to call a mass meeting of the citizens to vote on an appropriation for the building of a High School in the Second Ward on any site selected by the committee for the location of the building. The Eureka Iron Company then came to the assistance of the city and "donated the . . . site on Oak Street." And in 1869 Wyandotte's first High School was built.

It was a New England style, three story, brick structure of six rooms; had two front entrances, and seated 340 pupils. Daniel Thomas was the first superintendent; and the first class, five girls, Miss Flora Clark, Miss Carrie Clark, Miss Lizzie Shelow, Miss Belle Eby, and Miss Ella Clark, was graduated in 1875. The exercises were held in Bank Hall, which was the name given to the second floor of the Wyandotte Savings Bank.

"Who will ever forget those awful days in that old Central? The awful, cold mornings when the place wouldn't get warm, and the high sidewalk one had to cross on Oak Street?" pioneers ask. And the "forty acres" with its thistles, burrs, and "pitchforks," which clung to long, black, cotton stockings; its scummy ditches; its garter snakes; with all of which one had to contend if he lived south of old Central and had too little time to travel the long way around via the sidewalks of Fifth street!

Who will ever forget the ceremonies which took place when a class graduated from the "Old Brown Schoolhouse" and enrolled in their

high school course? "A procession formed at its door and marched down the dusty road, often with most of the marchers barefooted, to the Second Ward School, the Union, which was then a high school. . . . Great was the envy of the pupils who had to remain in the elementary school, and could only tag along with the procession, turning aside regretfully as the fortunate ones marched through the doors of their high school and took their places on its splintery benches."



School class, Old Brown School. Teacher, Ida Johnson Nixon; twins beside teacher, Effie and Eva Hurst.

There were occasions, however, when the marching order was reversed. "It was the custom to send offending pupils from the Central School to meet the superintendent at the 'Old Brown Schoolhouse,'" says the writer of a letter to a Wyandotte paper. "There the guilty student was given some good advice and occasionally physical treatment of a less soothing kind."

However, few Wyandotters braved the rigors of gaining a high school education in the early days. From 1875 to 1885 inclusive, only fifty-eight were graduated from old Central. Perhaps the indifference was engendered by the "all work, no play" schedule of the era, since, until 1896, there were no organized high school sports. In that year, a baseball nine was organized.

Two years later the first football team was organized. One of the members of this first team, Abraham Schuffert, has described the environment of the team of 1898. "The shower bath in those days was the Detroit River. After practice on the old 'forty acres,' the players would hie themselves down to the river for a dip. . . . The modern

locker rooms didn't exist then either. All they had was a peg to hang their clothes on.

"The headquarters for the first football team was at the foot of Oak street. It was there the boys used to gather to figure out their own plays and formations . . . no coach to do that for them.

"As far as athletic equipment went back in those days, it was very meager; and a far cry from the suits and gear that are 'fashionable' now."

A *Wyandotte Herald* dated November 18, 1898, describes the first game: "The recently organized football team of the Wyandotte High School played their first game last Saturday morning, when they met the Detroit High School Reserves on the home grounds. The game was played in three or four inches of mud, and when finished the boys looked as though they had been through the Santiago campaign. Although defeated, the Wyandotte team made a splendid showing, considering that this was their first game. The visitors won by a score of 11-5."

In 1899 the Board of Education agreed unanimously to remove the High School classes from the Central building on Oak Street to the First Ward School, which had been rebuilt the previous year, "because of the noise and annoyance at the Central Building due to the close proximity of three railroads making study in advanced grades almost impossible." The basement of the First Ward School was fitted up for laboratory purposes.

The twenty-third and last class to graduate from old Central in 1898 numbered ten, seven girls and three boys. They are noteworthy for several achievements, one of which was getting out the first class book. It was described as: "The volume is printed on extra heavy coated book paper, and is bound in dark green and red. It contains half-tone pictures of the High School, the faculty, and members of the class. The reading matter includes a 'Song of '98' by Miss Florence Babcock, Class Prophecy by M.C.B.B., Class poem by Miss Letitia Park, a History of the Junior Class, History of the Wyandotte Debating Club by E. Person Clark, an alphabet, and two pages of 'grinds.'"

Perhaps the class of '98 was also the first to follow the innovation opening the commencement exercises with the class yell. At any rate, it has been recorded: "As the curtain rose, the young people let loose their class yell, 'Sis boom bah! Sis boom bah! '98! '98! Rah! Rah!'"

There is no record of the date at which the class yell was discontinued as a feature of commencement exercises. Perhaps it was when the class became so large that its roar would have frightened the audience. Or

perhaps it was in the year of the great cacophony when a member of the class spoiled it completely by failing to repeat the proper syllable at the proper time. "Wahoo, Hoowah!" screamed thirteen young people. "Wahoo, Wahoo!" screamed the fourteenth, thereby bringing laughter from the audience, consternation from the thirteen, and—perhaps—the omission of the class yell at future commencement exercises.

Extracurricular activities of the period, besides baseball and football, included programs in honor of great men, Columbus and Lafayette, among others. A Columbus Day celebration in 1892 has been described: "At the Central building the flag was hoisted at 10 A.M. and given three hearty cheers. The pupils then went upstairs and exercises were held in all of the rooms. . . . In the High School, Grif Thomas was dressed as 'Uncle Sam' and Mae Girardin as 'Miss Columbia.' . . .

"There was a large crowd present to witness the sports in the afternoon. The bicycle and foot races were run on the race course and the football game was played on the school grounds. . . . The football game between the school eleven and a team picked from the clerks resulted in a victory for the former, the score standing 1-0."

In November, 1898, on Lafayette Day, a collection was taken to go toward the Lafayette memorial monument to be unveiled at the Paris Exposition on July 4, 1900.

The lyceum was also a popular extracurricular activity of the '90's. Some of the subjects of debate at lyceum programs were: "The Right of Women to Vote," "The Justifiability of a Lie," "The Desirability of Electing the President and Vice-President of the United States by Popular Vote."

These programs were made enjoyable not only by those participating in them but also by those in charge of them, not the least of whom was the "Lamp Cleaning Committee," whose duties, an older generation will remember, were wiping up the kerosene spilled while filling the lamps, trimming wicks, and cleaning innumerable, sooty chimneys.

The area south of old Central in the early days was populated mostly by Germans with large families, and perhaps it was because of the number of children in that section of the town, which was known as the Third Ward, that it became urgent to build another school.

The first mention of a school for the district, as disclosed by the Board of Education records, was the appointment of a committee to interview Captain E. B. Ward for the purpose of soliciting a school site. It was not recorded in the minutes if the committee met with success.

In October of 1871, however, a payment was made on the north side

of the present site of McKinley School, and in May of the following year, J. F. Thon was instructed to secure quotations, plans and specifications for the new building. That he did and a contract was made with Peter Lacy on June 11 for a school building. The corner stone was laid July 20.

The first Third Ward School was a two-story, four-room building with a pillared porch sheltering the front door and the favored little boy chosen to ring the hand bell announcing that it was time for classes to begin. The furnace was located underneath the stairway leading from the first to the second floor, a fire hazard or worse, thought many a parent. Might it not explode? Probably they discussed the potential danger in the presence of their children. Little was known about the vagaries of furnaces in the era of the baseburner and the kitchen range. And one day at the turn of the century they thought their worst fears had been realized. An explosion at the Sibley Quarry rocked the town and shattered window panes for miles around. Believing the explosion had occurred in the schoolhouse, dozens of frantic mothers congregated in the street outside. The school children, terrified by the noise, made a mad rush for the doors. Those on the first floor escaped easily to the street; one child on the second floor climbed out of a window and slid down one of the porch pillars to safety; the rest stampeded to the narrow stairway where they created a screaming, struggling jam, and where they certainly would have been destroyed had the thing they feared materialized. Fortunately, nobody was injured, and a short time later the building was razed.

The old Third Ward School housed the "chart class," the equivalent of the modern kindergarten; the first, second, third, and fourth grades. Promotion from one class to another was accompanied by a certificate signed by a teacher.

In the first grade slates were used for school work. One still remembers the "goose pimples" caused by the squeaking of slate pencils as first graders laboriously formed the letters of the alphabet; one remembers the sour odor of the sponge or slate rag used in erasures, and the distaste with which one viewed the boy across the aisle who used spittle and the sleeve of his blouse to accomplish the cleaning.

However, the girls, too, were something less than fastidious when at recess time they scraped "spruce gum," a bitter, sticky, bubble of sap mixed with sand, bits of bark, and even an ant or two, off the trees which dotted the school playgrounds; and chewed it with relish.

One remembers the eye examination conducted by an optician in the

old Third Ward School when a number of envied classmates were fitted with glasses while others were denied them by parents who knew the "headaches" which had determined the diagnosis to be non-existent.

One remembers the embarrassment caused by the teacher's reading honeyed messages sent by second graders to each other on Valentine's Day; the terror engendered not only in pupils but also in teachers by the stern visaged superintendent of schools in the late '90's, Mr. Dasef. An article describing a Teachers' Institute of the period says, "Mr. Dasef noticed several lady teachers chewing gum. 'How many teachers allow their pupils to chew gum?' he asked. 'There was no response,' the account continues, 'but several sets of feminine jaws ceased to move.'"

One remembers the mysterious smiles on the faces of some of the boys when "A Spanish Cavalier," one of the popular songs of the era, was sung; the uncertain response of some of the girls who had not the faintest idea what a Spanish cavalier was nor what the "retreat" he stood in, and which they pronounced "retier" to make it rhyme, the instinct for rhyming evidently stronger than the perception of the meaning of the words or the still dormant sex consciousness.

One remembers the beautiful drawing teacher, Miss Fisher, with her auburn hair and creamy skin, exquisite above a turquoise blue blouse; her soft, white hands far more fascinating than the apples and pumpkins and maple leaves which she drew as models for her pupils. One also remembers the less decorative music teacher, Miss Davis, with her pitch pipe, the use of which signified less to her round-eyed, second-grade pupils than the blowing of the Ship Yard or "Sody Ash" whistles. One remembers best the kind and wise teacher of the chart class and first grade, Miss Kitty Richards, who kindled the imaginations and sympathies of her pupils by reading "Black Beauty" and "Beautiful Joe" to them.

One remembers closing day exercises at Arbeiter Hall, the dresses with "puffed" sleeves; the sailor caps with "Dewey," the popular hero of the period, printed in gilt letters on the band; the stirring words of the song, "When Dewey and his ships proceeded up Manila Bay, Old Glory to maintain."

In its early days the old Third Ward School served the school children not only of the Third Ward but also those from other parts of the city as well. However, in 1885, school attendance had grown so that the city was again called upon to build a school. The School Board owned seven lots fronting on Vine Street in the square known as the "City Park," which they exchanged for the same number of lots owned



First Ward School, after rebuilding in 1898. Present location of Garfield Elementary.

by the Eureka Iron Works on the south half of the square, the present location of Garfield School.

In 1886 a one-story, brick building, named the First Ward School to replace the Old Brown School, was erected. It was Gothic in style with a central hall running through it from front to rear. The grounds were enclosed by a picket fence. The first principal was Ida Johnson, the mother of Ralph Nixon. She received \$350 for a year's service.

In 1896 two more rooms were added to the First Ward building, and in 1898 it was torn down and replaced by a new building with eight classrooms and two basement rooms. At this time the high school began to use the building. In 1932 a still newer building, renamed the Garfield, which is there today, was erected on this site.

In 1901 the old Third Ward building was razed, and some of the little Third Warders jumped over or waded through ditches enroute to classes in the Second Ward building, old Central; others went to school in Arbeiter Hall until the new Third Ward School should be completed.

The flagstone walks and much of the equipment of the old Third Ward building were sold by the Board of Education at auction. An

article in a *Wyandotte Herald* of June 7, 1901, describes the sale: "To dispose of a lot of old truck that had accumulated at the Third Ward schoolhouse, the Board of Education on Monday afternoon held a sort of rummage sale. John J. Kreger was the auctioneer, and inside of an hour he had raked in \$105.05 for the school fund. A stretch of cement and stone walk went for \$64. Old seats . . . brought as high as 85 cents apiece. There were old curtains, wash basins, several stoves, a woodshed, and a piece of old fence."

Some of the "old truck" was later proudly displayed by Wyandotte home owners, who paved cindered paths and replaced rickety, wooden sidewalks with flagstone, and used the old seats as lawn benches.

A two-story, eight-room brick building costing approximately \$18,000 replaced the old Third Ward School. It was christened by Miss Edna Gettleman and given the name "McKinley School" because of a resolution introduced and unanimously accepted by the Board of Education that Wyandotte school buildings be named after martyred presidents of the United States. (The Second Ward building was named the "Lincoln School" because it was the oldest, and the First Ward building was named the "Garfield School.")

The furnace in the new building was not under the stairway but in the basement. The "certain outbuildings" were replaced by modern, inside conveniences; the hand bell was replaced by one in a belfry.

In 1914 a unit of four rooms was added to the rear of the building, and later two additional rooms were made in the basement to accommodate the teeming, old Third Ward, which had long since overflowed its southern boundary, Grove Street, and engulfed South Detroit, the territory beyond. The present McKinley was built in 1940, with the bricks of the old building removed to construct the wall at the Roosevelt High School athletic field.

In 1905 the old Central or Lincoln School was torn down and the Wyandotte High School was built—in the same, noisy spot close to three railroads, which in the year 1899 had made "studying in advanced grades impossible."

The new Wyandotte High School was a two story, brick building, and, like the Lincoln School, had two front entrances, one for the boys and one for the girls. The entire lower floor and one room on the upper floor were occupied by elementary grades. A large assembly room and four class rooms on the upper floor accommodated high school students. There was no auditorium, no swimming pool, no gymnasium in the new school on Oak Street. But neither were there dramatic societies,

J hops, nor Senior Proms, at least not in the early days of the school. Graduation exercises, basketball practice, and basketball games were held in Arbeiter Hall. Later, graduation exercises were held in the Majestic Theater, which was located on the east side of Biddle Avenue between Maple and Sycamore Streets. Nor did the curriculum demand extensive space since it did not include domestic science, manual training, stenography, typing, dancing, or driving courses.

Complete records of curricula of the pioneer period are not extant but probably consisted of the barest essentials until the study of German was introduced in 1887, and the school's graduates for college entrance were received in 1888.

Miss Bessie Christiancy, the first music teacher, was appointed in 1889, a year after the Board of Education adopted a resolution that the elements of vocal music should be taught in all grades of the public school.

In the same year, the Board voted to provide flagpoles for all city schools.

In the latter year, nine years after the Board of Education had adopted a resolution to introduce vocal music into the schools, they decided to do away with special teachers for music and drawing.

In that year, also, the committee on school building decided to fit up two additional rooms in the First Ward School for a kindergarten.

In 1898 the Board of Education voted to place telephones in the three public school buildings at a cost of \$48 per year.

One learned cooking and sewing at home, manual training as an apprentice carpenter, and went to a Detroit business college for training in office work. The boys learned to dance at Bill Perry's assemblies held in Arbeiter Hall; the girls mastered the art by following or treading on the feet of the boys. No special instruction in driving was in demand at the time since the automobile was in scarcely more than the experimental stage; and the old gray mare was a tractable creature used only by a few people of wealth, and doctors, farmers, delivery boys, and an occasional young man on a courting mission.

Notwithstanding meager facilities, Wyandotte High School boasted a champion baseball team in 1907. An article in the *Wyandotte Herald* of June 7, 1907, states: "By winning the game with Central High, Detroit, last week, the Wyandotte High School team are admittedly the champions of Wayne County. The joke of the last game lay in the fact that Central was skeptical about Wyandotte proving a foeman worthy of its steel, and was reticent in arranging a game. Just to show the Detroit boys what was what, Central was handed a shut out."

The students at Wyandotte High were handicapped by the lack of a gymnasium, however. The slippery floor of Arbeiter Hall, recently waxed for one of the current dances, was the cause of much skidding when it was necessary to make a quick turn during a basketball game; and perhaps was an important factor, although not the only one, in the poor record made by the girls' team of 1909. Contributing factors were the coiffures of the period, which included "rats," side-combs, huge bows of ribbon attached to the back of the head by a hat pin—all of

which usually slipped their moorings in a rough and tumble game—plus the vanity of at least one member of the team who persisted in wearing a corset to preserve her fashionable, wasp-waisted appearance at the expense of freedom of movement and respiration.

Both games and practices were always followed by dancing, in a rather disheveled state, it is true, since there were no showers or other facilities for "sprucing up" at Arbeiter Hall; but since glamour girls were unheard of in those days, the boys were not too critical.

Superficial differences to the contrary, high school students of the early part of the century were like the high school youth of today, given to



Kate Gartner, High School teacher

studious pursuits as well as to "horse play" and disturbing the peace of their elders. Students in English classes were encouraged by Miss Winifred Carl, principal of Wyandotte High School in the early part of the century, not only to make a serious study of the works of great writers, but also to express their own thoughts on important subjects such as literature, government, and religion. Students in German classes devoted themselves so diligently to learning the language that they were able to give an occasional play in German, one of which was lauded by "Ein Alter Deutscher" in a letter to the *Wyandotte Herald* of May 12, 1911: "The German play given by the High School German class, under the management of their teacher, Miss Hitchings, was quite a surprise to all the citizens of Wyandotte, and particularly so to the

Germans. The play, 'Einer Muss Heiraten,' was well taken and all the participants had their parts well in hand. Only a little louder speaking should have been done. But this must be overlooked as it was their first effort to use the German language in a public hall. The singing of 'Die Wacht am Rhine' was perfect, also the song, 'Im Wald und Auf der Heide' by the whole class. Both songs could not have been sung better by any of the old German social clubs."

Wyandotte High School students of that era also had their Literary Society, the programs of which were similar to the lyceum programs of an earlier day: debates, impromptu speeches, recitations, and music.

The records of the 1909-1910 period chronicle the awakening to the need for an expansion of the curriculum to include manual training and domestic science. Mr. H. C. Daley, who was superintendent of schools at the time, proposed introducing both courses in spite of strong opposition by a segment of the townspeople. His argument was: "Manual training is no 'cure all,' but it certainly teaches many, many individuals to whom the purely intellectual courses do not appeal. At least ninety per cent of our boys and girls of this town will eventually earn their living by the use of their hands. What are we doing to train those hands?

"I have not been in a city where such training would be more beneficial or more appreciated when once begun than in Wyandotte where the man who does not work is the exception."

Manual training received the approval of the School Board in 1910. The following year domestic science was introduced. A commercial course, which was thought to be of more value than manual training and domestic science, was delayed until 1914.

The first free public night school opened at the High School building in October, 1910, and was discontinued in 1913 because the patronage was not sufficient to justify the expense of conducting the school.

In 1911 an athletic association was formed at the High School, and in 1914 the Building and Property Commission was instructed to provide a running track for the boys in High School.

In 1916, Wyandotte High School's graduating class was depleted by four who graduated from St. Patrick's High, the first school graduates of the latter school.

The class of 1922 was the last to graduate from Wyandotte High School on Oak Street. In 1923 the new Theodore Roosevelt High School opened its doors to the youth of Wyandotte. It was so named because of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education to name Wyandotte schools after presidents of the United States.

The new school, Gothic of the Tudor period style, was built at a cost of \$1,140,000 and was described as one of the most magnificent buildings of its time.

At the dedication of the Theodore Roosevelt High School, Mr. J. H. Bishop, superintendent of schools from 1871 to 1875, told of school conditions in the past.

It is regrettable that Mr. Bishop's speech was not recorded to emphasize for future generations the vast differences between the school buildings of his era and those of today; it is also regrettable that Mr. Bishop could not have peered into the future to note the still more startling differences between the school activities and the curriculum of the early days and of modern times.

Mr. Bishop would have been surprised at the safety patrols, the rifle tournaments, the water pageants, Roosevelt's magnificent band. He would have been surprised to see a high school student at the mayor's desk, other students at the desks of the city clerk and city treasurer administering the government and making suggestions for civic improvement.

He would have been surprised and pleased by the *Wy News* founded in 1921, which won the highest award bestowed by the National Scholastic Press Association for several successive years and which was chosen as illustrative text book material by Professor Fred Maguire of the journalism department of Michigan State College.

Mr. Bishop would have been pleased and gratified by the Hi-Y groups, "part of a nation wide and international movement to create, maintain, and develop throughout the school and community high standards of Christian character."

He would have been surprised and excited by Roosevelt's athletic program, its swimming classes, its track, basketball, football teams.

He would have been most surprised, however, by its curriculum, expanded to include, among other subjects, flower arrangement; "the do's and don't's of store life;" personnel training; classes in operating strip and opaque projectors and movie film; an experiment in winter camping school, which included ice skating, skiing, tobogganing, trapping, and ice fishing; classes in pre-aviation and marksmanship; vocational training for national defense (during the war years); and the "World as a Community Class," which was instituted at Wyandotte in 1945 under the sponsorship of the Red Cross and the supervision of Mr. Carl Hardwicke, an instructor at Theodore Roosevelt High School, which was later publicized "across and beyond the borders of the United States." (The purpose of the class is to

promote better international understanding by exchanging visits with students of various schools in the United States and Canada and is considered the first of its type in the United States.)

Mr. Bishop would have been surprised also at the \$2,160,836.66 school expenditure for that year. The expenditure for the year 1900, a quarter of a century after Mr. Bishop's tenure in the office of superintendent of schools, was only \$15,307.13.

However, in 1923 when the new Theodore Roosevelt High School was built, the city annexed the former village of Ford, which included the Woodruff, built in 1922; the J. B. Ford, built in 1913; and the Labadie schools, built in 1921, named after a prominent local attorney, the founder of the J. B. Ford and the Michigan Alkali Company, and one of the pioneer settlers of the village, respectively.

In 1928, although Roosevelt High School was planned to provide for only fourteen hundred pupils, there were eighteen hundred students in the high school, the number being accommodated by changes in the administration.

Junior high school students were concentrated at the Lincoln and Labadie schools so that Roosevelt High School might be reserved for senior high school students. By 1951 there were 1,921 pupils "packed like sardines" in this building.

During the years between 1929 and 1940, the depression years, two new government-sponsored educational programs were introduced to Wyandotte: the Freshman College, eligible only to those not financially able to take a course in regular colleges; and the Nursery School, established with the cooperation of the Board of Education and sponsored by the W. P. A. and the Family Protective Association.

In 1929 a new elementary school, the Washington, was built; in 1932 the old Garfield building was razed, and a new building with a capacity of 1,040 pupils was built. The new McKinley School was built in 1940; the Jefferson School, in 1950; and the James Madison, in 1953.

The new elementary schools, like the Theodore Roosevelt High School, have little in common with the elementary schools of an earlier period. Handbells and belfry bells alike have disappeared, and an electric system of hall signals has taken their place. Corridors and cloak rooms have given way to individual lockers; bare, wooden floors, to terrazzo and tile; primitive, outdoor toilet facilities, to stalls of marble. Kindergartens, which in 1900 supplanted the old "chart classes," are equipped with fairy tale furniture: diminutive tables and chairs, toys, sand boxes, aquariums.

In addition to the changes for the better which have taken place in

buildings, equipment, and curriculum, care of the children themselves has improved. There was no mid-morning serving of milk in the early days; there were no sanitary drinking fountains. There were no conferences between parents and teachers—except to protest the administration of corporal punishment or to complain of a child's outrageous conduct. (The P. T. A. was founded in Wyandotte in 1924.) There were no free health examinations in the early days—the first health inspection, including immunization against diphtheria and examination for tuberculosis, took place in 1926. There was no orthopedic department entailing the services of a physiotherapist. The child of the early part of the twentieth century stumbled along a precarious road to physical and mental maturity.

A large part of the credit for Wyandotte's progress in education is due to the various superintendents of the city's schools, particularly to Superintendent H. C. Daley, who served from 1908 to 1918, and who introduced the 6-6 method of grading, manual training, domestic science, commercial courses, summer school, and evening school to the city.

During World War I summer school and evening school were discontinued because of the small number of students attending classes, but they were re-opened during the 1920's when evening school was limited to citizenship classes. During the 1930's, however, the curriculum was extended to include twenty-five courses on avocational, cultural, manual training, commercial, and home-making subjects.

Superintendent Fred W. Frostic, who succeeded Mr. Daley, served Wyandotte schools for thirty-two years. An account of his accomplishments is given in a booklet distributed to guests at a dinner tendered him at the time of his resignation:

"Through the years, with teachers and students alike Mr. Frostic has encouraged creative expression wherever possible.

"Mr. Frostic first showed his skill in school building with the completion in 1923 of the Theodore Roosevelt High School. Although the building is now 27 years old, it was so well designed and constructed that it has not been outmoded but still ranks favorably with more modern school structures.

"Inaugurating in 1923 the 'pay-as-you-go' policy, the envy of the school men of the state and nation, Mr. Frostic helped design and direct the construction of the Washington, Garfield, and McKinley schools, the field house, and the addition to the Woodruff School. The new Thomas Jefferson School, now nearing completion, has well been designated the 'School of Tomorrow.'

"In each building may be seen such personal touches of his creative work

as the compass in colored terrazzo that lies in the main hall of the Garfield; the large map of the United States, which will be a part of the floor in the Jefferson lobby; and the seal, first used on the ends of the auditorium seats of Roosevelt, which has become the seal of the Board of Education."

Mr. MacDonald Egdorf, who began his administration in 1950, introduced home-bound teaching planned to help students adjust themselves to forced confinement and at the same time keep up with school work as much as possible; formal planning for personnel problems, and the classification plan for teachers. He also initiated plans for more junior high and elementary schools; suggested the 6-3-3 program, six years of elementary training, three years of junior high, and three years of senior high school. Mr. Egdorf resigned in 1952 and was succeeded by Mr. Peter Jenema.

Mr. Jenema has continued the program initiated by Mr. Egdorf, and also secured football field lighting.

Other superintendents of Wyandotte schools were: Mr. D. E. Thomas, 1869-1871; Mr. J. H. Bishop, 1871-1875; Mr. J. M. Burk, 1875-1876; Mr. Owen Roberts, 1876-1877; Miss Belle Widner, 1878-1881; Mr. C. O. Hoyt, 1882-1887; Mr. M. O. Graves, 1887-1888; Mr. L. M. Kellogg, 1889-1890; Mr. N. L. Palmer, 1891-1893; Mr. A. W. Dasef, 1894-1900; Mr. P. J. Wilson, 1900-1901; Mr. G. R. Brandt, 1901-1903; Mr. F. H. Sooy, 1903-1908.

Parochial Schools

The parochial schools of the city, St. Patrick, St. Joseph, Mt. Carmel, St. Helena, St. Stanislaus, St. Elizabeth, and Trinity Lutheran, have buttressed the "bulwarks of the nation," the public schools. Emphasizing vigorously the Christian concept of life, they guarantee—in so far as the human entity can be guaranteed—that their product will be honest, loyal citizens. Stressed over and over again by the pastors and teachers in charge of Catholic parochial schools is the precept delivered by Rev. John M. McClorey to St. Patrick's graduating class of 1924, "Be right with your God and you cannot go wrong." And Trinity Lutheran School authorities seemingly go a step farther in an article to the *Wyandotte Herald* of August 29, 1930, when they quote from George Washington's Farewell Address, "Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of the religious principle."

The city's first parochial school, St. Patrick's, was established in 1885⁶⁸

⁶⁸A conflicting account gives the date of establishment as 1883, and Farmer's "History of Detroit and Michigan" states the school was first established under the supervision of five Sisters of Charity.

under the supervision of three nuns, Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in the old frame building which had formerly served as a church. The building was already a quarter of a century old when it was put to use as a school, and, as the years passed, became more and more decrepit. The windows rattled in the wind, and in a heavy storm the walls shook so that framed pictures fell from them. The blackboards, painted plaster walls, were cracked and gouged in places like a miniature European battle field. The uneven pine boards of the floor, worn from the tread of generations of church goers and school children, creaked, trembled, and one day broke beneath the feet of one of the last students to attend St. Patrick's first school. She sat on the floor, frightened but unhurt, one leg thrust through the ceiling of the room below which housed the second graders, also frightened but unhurt by the unheralded shower of plaster.

In spite of the shabbiness of the building, however, it was a beloved place. The statue of the Sacred Heart or the Blessed Mother on the improvised altar at the front of the room and the glowing base-burner at the rear extended a cheery welcome to children half frozen and snow-wet from a long schoolbound trudge punctuated by falling off bob-sleds⁸⁰ and "making angels"; and sometimes in the afternoon the odor of coffee wafted from a metal cup, which a dreamer had put on the back of the stove for the noon luncheon and forgotten to remove, gave the school-room the delicious atmosphere of home.

However, old buildings, like old dolls, must some day be discarded; and by the time St. Patrick's first school had reached the half century mark, it was no longer safe for human habitation. The last class of eighth graders, three girls, was graduated in 1906, and later in the year a new brick building was erected. Some of the improvements over the old building were slate blackboards, cloak rooms opening from class rooms, "to reduce the annoyance of missing garments so common in all schools to a minimum," and electric lighting. The new school also boasted an auditorium, a unique feature of Wyandotte schools of that period.

In 1914 an addition was made to the building, and in 1922 a gymnasium and several more class rooms were added.

The first high school graduation exercises were held in 1916 with a class of four, three boys and a girl. Rev. James A. Hally, who was pastor of St. Patrick Church at that time, reminded the graduates that, "as the first class to leave St. Patrick's High School they would be looked up to as

⁸⁰A pastime of the era was hopping onto the back or runners of a moving bob-sled, a sport which sometimes entailed disastrous consequences.

models for others to follow," and he exhorted them to lead in the right direction.

St. Patrick's has a well organized athletic program—throughout the years it has captured trophies in baseball, basketball, and football—and, although it does not have a swimming pool and other modern features which characterize Theodore Roosevelt High School, its curriculum and standards give its graduates equal entrance opportunities at the state university.

The date of establishment and location of St. Joseph's first school are not definitely known. Classes were held in various locations: the two front rooms of the rectory, the kitchen of the Sanger home, the Grandsinger place,⁷⁰ over Brohl's Bakery, over Maple Hall;⁷¹ and were presided over by a Mr. Kroft, Mr. John Tilmann, Father Reis, and Miss Mary Zeller.

St. Joseph's first school building was constructed in 1891, and was a two story, brick structure of four rooms and basement. It was staffed by the Dominican Sisters, who gave instruction in both English and German, sometimes to the bewilderment of small fry who understood only English but were taught to pray, "Ich bin so klein."

Originally, part of the school was occupied by the teaching nuns, who were later moved into the old rectory when a new one was built.

In June, 1940, the first unit in a new school plant, a gymnasium-auditorium, was completed; and in the fall of the same year one class room was ready for occupancy. Since that time the original school building has been razed and several class rooms have been added to the new. St. Joseph's has not as yet built a high school.

Mt. Carmel's first school was established in 1900 and placed under the supervision of the Felician Sisters. The Rev. Peter Kruzka, who served Mt. Carmel Church as pastor from 1921 to 1938, opened a complete, fully accredited high school in 1928. The first class of thirty-five girls and thirty-three boys was graduated in 1931.

Like St. Patrick's, it has a well organized athletic program; and rivalry between the schools, especially on the football field, is keen. It also has a four-oared and an eight-oared shell, and a spectacular band.

St. Helena's School was built during the pastorate of Rev. John Raczynski, who served the parish from 1927 to 1932; St. Stanislaus',

⁷⁰Located on the present site of Wyandotte Theatre.

⁷¹Located on the present site of Fire Department building.

during the pastorate of Rev. Max Ganas, who came to the parish in 1924; St. Elizabeth's, in 1949.

The first Trinity school building, a one-story, frame structure very much like the "Old Brown Schoolhouse," was built in 1869. In 1907 it was sold for \$125, and the following year a two story, brick building was erected. This building served until 1950 when it was razed and replaced with a fire proof building with standard class rooms, a kindergarten room, a gymnasium, and library. Trinity, like the other parochial schools with the exceptions of St. Patrick's and Mt. Carmel, has no high school.

Altogether, Wyandotte has seventeen schools, "bulwarks of the nation," from which go forth every year hundreds of young men and women imbued with a deep and sincere appreciation of their American heritage.

CHAPTER 11

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLIC LIBRARY

"There is no insurance of nations so cheap as the enlightenment of the people."

Andrew Carnegie Centenary Poster
Displayed in
Wyandotte Carnegie Library
November, 1935.

IN WYANDOTTE there have been no more powerful factors for enlightenment than the expressions and contributions from the numerous free presses and the free public library, whose benefits the citizens have enjoyed since 1869.

Both agencies have fulfilled their obligations to the American heritage of freedom of expression and thought; the newspapers by actively formulating the ideas and thoughts of the city into print; and the library by standing as a fortress of liberty in the preservation and dissemination of all printed matter that is "fit to read," regardless of race, creed, and prejudices.

Strauss Gantz, editor of the contemporary *Wyandotte News Herald*, inheritor of the only pioneer newspaper extant, set the background for the influential history of the Fourth estate in this community in his Seventy-Third Anniversary editorial. He aptly wrote:

"Seventy-three years ago, one of America's truly great newspapermen, James D. Haven, founded this newspaper and from his fiery pen came the spark and drive that turned pastures into industries, lanes into thoroughfares. . . . Old timers will recall the *Herald* under the editorship of Dolly Haven. They will remember that he always pledged himself to support all progressive measures for the betterment of this Down River Area. And they will remember that he always carried through. Dolly Haven feared no man and there were many who sought to silence his pen. It was his courage in the face of selfish opposition that helped to build a city where before there was little but wilderness. Today old timers read and reread those priceless J. D. Haven gems of journalism that are now preserved for posterity at Bacon Memorial Public

Library and they chuckle when they recall the hectic days when Dolly called a spade a spade.⁷²

Although three newspapers preceded the *Wyandotte Herald* in historical sequence, it is, indeed, to editor Dolly (James D.) Haven that Wyandotte owes much of its recorded history from 1886-1943. He reported in accurate and colorful details and with pride and genuine love of the town the daily events, activities, thoughts and accomplishments of the city so that the citizens would have a knowledge of that which makes them a part of the national scene. He might well receive the



Dolly Haven's Print Shop where Wyandotte history was written. Located on Oak street near the river front.

appellation "Father of Wyandotte History." He, himself, was keenly conscious of the fact that one of the most important sources of local history is the newspaper and he frequently reminded the reader that respective items were of historical significance, including his re-occurring articles on the history of the newspapers in the city.

The first newspaper was established in the first year of the chartering of the city, 1867, and was called the *Wyandotte Courier*. The disastrous fire of that year destroyed its budding influence. In 1870, Henry A. Griffin and Morgan Bates, Jr., introduced the *Enterprise* which was published every Friday from offices over the Eby block, the northeast

⁷²*Wyandotte News Herald*, January 29, 1951.

corner of Elm and Biddle Avenue. Competition followed with the publishing of a second paper called *The Weekly News*, but it was short lived. During this same 1870 period, the *Wayne County Courier* made an attempt to compete, but the town was not large enough to support so many weekly newspapers and its proprietors moved the business to Detroit before 1879.

On January 2, 1879, the *Wyandotte Herald* was "ushered into existence during a heavy storm," by Reverend George Owen, the local Methodist minister, who had planned to use this adjunct trade to "eke out a clergyman's scanty living." The salutatory greeting established the precedent for future editors:

"We present to the citizens of Wyandotte and vicinity, the first number of the *Wyandotte Herald* which we purpose to publish weekly in the interest of Wyandotte and Wayne county. It is our intention to keep the *Herald* absolutely free from politics, scandal, and low vulgarity. It shall be our constant aim to give our readers the best reading matter in our power. The selected matter will be from the very best sources. The editorials, free from personalities and slang, shall be devoted to the best interests of our city.

"With this introduction to our readers we solicit your co-operation in making the *Herald* an excellent paper worthy of the city and county.

"G. W. Owen & Company, Publishers"

Dolly explained that the appendage "company" was "a harmless myth intended, like a dog's tail, to add dignity and poise."

Early in 1880, Brother Owen "decided he had enough of the newspaper business and Brother Owen's readers had had enough of Brother Owen, so what could be more appropriate," Dolly asked, "than a change?" The change came on October 8, 1880, when shrewd Frank Abbott "thrust his feet under the editorial table for the first time." Abbott proved to be an impractical printer unable to cope with the problems of the "unreliable compositors who would go out on a Saturday night 'bender' and fail to appear again, or would respond to the allurements of Detroit and unexpectedly leave the office in the lurch." Therefore, in spite of his ability to increase advertising and make money, Frank Abbott finally sold to editor, Henry C. Egabroad, of Dundee in 1882. Before leaving, Frank Abbott admonished the citizens to "build up and support home industries, cordially support and maintain your home paper, for its and your interests are identical; trade at home; improve and beautify your town. Universally do the opposite and it will go to the dogs."

Mr. Egabroad continued until June, 1886, when he relinquished the ownership to James D'Alton Haven, who straightway lost all re-

membrance of a dignified first name and became affectionately "Dolly," a friend to everyone in town. From that day until his death in 1943, the community felt the molding influence of this man of good will.

It was Dolly who printed day-by-day accounts of the progress in the drilling for gas, keeping in his window a jar filled with layers of soil from the well, as encouragement for the despairing citizens.

It was Dolly who presented the arguments, pro and con, for electricity, water, street cars, and many other civic issues.

It was Dolly who chastised the "croakers," and tried to bolster the flagging spirits of the "dreariest town in Michigan."

It was Dolly who editorialized that:

"Few people, perhaps, realize to what a large extent a town's reputation abroad is dependent upon the character of its local press. The merchant, manufacturer or professional man seeking a new location, will, in nine cases out of ten, receive his first impression of a town from an examination of its home papers. If these are well edited and printed, progressive in spirit, and filled with skillfully worded and neatly displayed advertisements of business men, a favorable impression is at once created. If the papers are slovenly in appearance, poorly patronized by merchants, and, what is a certain corollary, of a feeble constitution in a news and editorial way, an impression the exact reverse is inevitable.

"It is because of these facts, the truth of which we have witnessed in scores of instances, that the publisher has determined to make *The Herald* a paper of which none need be ashamed.

"*The Herald* has great faith in the future and, what is more to the point, in the present of Wyandotte. To advance the city's growth along all proper lines will be our ever present aim."

It was Dolly who gave dignity and grandeur to the spoken word and encouraged the free expression of thought by reprinting the text of local speeches.

It was Dolly who added zest and color to the life of a city by his numerous folklore stories which brought out the laughter and the tears.

It was Dolly who restrained the unscrupulous with his caustic comments.

There was no one better than Dolly to stir the emotion of patriotism, bare to the broad daylight the goings on of party politics, and compliment the power of the citizens in the voting booths.

It was Dolly who sat down at a desk cluttered high with papers and notes and penned the nostalgic farewells to beloved leaders and passing events; then rose and set the type for the presses (furnished

with power from neighbor Gray's Flour Mill) so that the inarticulate thoughts of the townspeople might be preserved for posterity.

It was Dolly who was the first to welcome another newspaper to the city, extending the encouraging word "that verily, competition—honorable competition is the life of the trade. We should be loth to believe that Wyandotte can not support two newspapers. This paper wants company and nothing could be further from its policy than to adopt a course intended to annihilate competition."

The first paper to receive Dolly's congratulations on its first year of existence was *The Independent*, established in 1899 by W. E. Brown and Company of Marine City. When J. A. Webster of Dowagiac purchased the *Independent* within a year, the Detroit *Courier* reminded him that "numerous attempts will be made to project a second newspaper in Wyandotte before it becomes increasingly evident that *The Herald* is firmly grounded in public favor and will be in existence when its would-be competitors are but a memory of the past." And so the *Herald* continued to record the advent and passing of many newspapers.

First to pass out of existence was the *Wayne County Democrat*, which lasted from June, 1892, through December, 1892. A paper, *The Wyandotte News*, made news just one year, 1896. A Baptist minister started the weekly which was printed on the Herald's presses. Only a few issues appeared. Editor Webster changed the name of the *Independent* in 1900 to the *Wyandotte Republican*, which enjoyed favor in the community for six years. In the meantime, during 1904, a paper called the *Wyandotte Daily Record* came into publication. Dolly's words upon this paper are self-explanatory: "After an uneventful career of two years, the *Wyandotte Daily Record* passed quietly away last Saturday afternoon (1906). There was no excitement, no announcement, no tears, no flowers. When the last copy was issued from the press, Willie McKnight, the office devil, placed it carefully on the floor, jumped on it and then to make sure that it was dead for keeps took it out on the street and let the street car run over it. In its day, the *Daily Record* was a hot rival of the Coloma *Boomer*—typographically and orthographically. It never had any excuse for existence and it didn't take the new proprietor long to find it out."

The same year marked a change for the *Wyandotte Independent*, which was sold to editor N. M. Coen, who in turn changed the name to the *Wyandotte Record*. Except for a change in editors in 1910 to George M. Adams, this paper enjoyed long years of service until 1935. In 1928, it was issued as a daily.

World War I witnessed two new mastheads, *The Down River Suburbanite* (1914-1918) and the *Exchange* (1917).

A *Wyandotte Tribune* (not to be confused with the contemporary paper of the same name) was announced as "yielding up the ghost after a precarious existence," in 1924.

Fred Bayer established *The Gateway Chronicle* in 1926, which continued as a third paper along with the *Wyandotte Record* and the *Wyandotte Herald* until 1935, when the *Record* and *Chronicle* consolidated into the *Wyandotte Daily News*, in January, 1939, with the paper under the editorship of James E. Ostrum. Daily operations were suspended in January, 1939, with the paper continuing as the *Wyandotte News*.

The year 1953 marked the advent of a free newspaper by Frank Worthington, called the *Wyandotte Advertiser*. The Gilstorf Brothers bought an interest in this publication in 1936 and the name changed to the *Down River Press*.

Frank Worthington resigned as editor of the *Down River Press* in 1939 and started the contemporary *Wyandotte Tribune*.

During the year 1942, a few issues of *The American Guardian* were published.

Then, after 57 years, the date February 19, 1943, made history in the tradition of J. D. Haven himself. On that date the last issue of the *Herald* was published and the title and good will of the paper passed to the Wyandotte News Company to become absorbed under the title *Wyandotte News-Herald*. That same day, Dolly Haven's son announced that "in memory of the finest dad that ever lived, we will continue in the job printing as J. D. Haven and Son."

Each newspaper over the years had made a bid for success and favor on the platforms of progress and city improvements, the sum total of which preserved our American way of life.

Today the city counts the advantages in being one of the few small towns in the United States in which two newspapers, *The Wyandotte News-Herald* (Strauss Gantz, editor) and the *Wyandotte Tribune* (Frank Worthington, editor) are available, permitting full coverage for free expression on all issues and civic events—the city's bountiful heritage of freedom of the press.

Public Library

Whatever editors of newspapers and authors of books and magazines print finds its value emphasized and its influence extended through their handmaiden—the institution of the free public library.

This concept has been difficult for the citizens of Wyandotte to understand since the growth of the city library has followed a long and uncertain road, guided by the interest of a few individuals to the present day of modern services and philosophies.

The idea of a library began eighty-five years ago in 1869, the same year the first high school was completed. At that time the school superintendent placed a few reference books in a room available for public use a few hours during a selected day. When this service proved to be more popular than foreseen, the collection was moved in 1874 to the second floor of the Wyandotte Savings Bank Building. Two bookcases filled with an encyclopedia, fiction, non-fiction, and a few children's books comprised the collection. Two hours on Saturday afternoons became known as "Library Day" for the children, a few housewives, and, occasionally, a man. Mrs. Bryan, mother of Edward, William, Jesse, and James, came regularly for books. She, among the few Wyandotte women library patrons, appreciated the lure of reading and the democracy of library service.

The Superintendent of the schools selected and purchased all the books, prepared by word and deed the overdue notices and sundry library routines. No limits were placed on the number one could take or the amount of the fines. A self-imposed limit of one book for two weeks seemed to be the general practice. Although overdue notices were mailed, about which the patrons vociferously protested, no fines were charged. With the administration of the library in the hands of the Superintendent of Schools, the position of the librarian became a clerkship which was ably handled by a high school appointee. Miss Ida Bolton, a high school student, became the first librarian-clerk. She in turn was followed by another high school student, Anna Whiting.

Jerome Bishop, a lover of books and a man of broad educational concepts, was the first to realize the importance of an organized library program. In order to effect the acceptance of his program, he offered to contribute an annual amount each year toward the support of a budget which was to be matched by equal funds from the School Board. He planned to continue the appropriation so long as the School Board fulfilled its obligations or until the city was able to maintain its own library. Mr. Bishop explained the program as follows:

"The court fines of Wayne County were given in part to the public schools of the county for library purposes. I was able by virtue of being head of both the City Council and Board of Education to secure the following arrangements.

The Board of Education turned over to the City Hall library property and money received from the county. The city furnished the room in the City Hall and employed a librarian. The city raised from year to year such an amount by taxation as they deemed wise and I contributed personally an amount equal to that raised by the city. This was about \$500 per year. This continued for a number of years."⁷³

On July 9, 1886, a formal report notified the School Board that the council was granting the free use of the room in the City Hall. The library committee was then instructed to place the rooms in a "suitable condition." The suitable conditions consisted of calcimining the ceiling a delicate pink and the walls a blue tint. The books were organized at the west end of the large room enclosed by a "neat" railing. Two long tables, at which were placed comfortable arm chairs, were provided for scientific and trade journals, the New York, Chicago, and Detroit daily papers. Books were to be secured by request from the librarian. Opening hours were every week-day afternoon from 2-6, and from 7-9:30 in the evening.

This first formally organized library became known later as the Reading Room. Precise Mrs. Nellie Briggs, widow of the first city attorney, Robert V. Briggs, presided over the room, maintaining quiet and orderliness in a most efficient manner, insuring the library's intention of being a place "where ladies as well as gentlemen can drop in and pass an hour or two in a very pleasant and profitable manner." The environment of the room, where no infringement of the rules was tolerated, was considered also by many who were concerned with the problems of youth, as an ideal place for social development and character discipline. Comments followed the line of thought that costly jails were built for the purpose of punishing those who break the laws of civilized communities, so why not spend money to expand the reading room facilities where the boys and young men who were growing up without restraining influence and who were "propping up street corners while inhaling coffin nails" could spend their evenings seeking cultural improvements? The benefits of the Reading Room as a worthy institution for character discipline were so urgently advocated that eventually the School Board decided, in addition to the advisability of an abridged dictionary and a universal atlas, to purchase chess and checker boards. That this policy was adopted has been confirmed by the librarian's reports for the years 1891-1892. One report listed 651 males, 617 females, books drawn, 903;

⁷³Letter of Jerome Holland Bishop to Miss Effie Hurst, July 3, 1924, explaining the history of the library.

tickets for checkers, 20. Circulation suffered a drop one month with checkers tickets falling to 16. Circulation figures were tabulated in a very novel method. A wooden coin bank was converted into a compartment tray in which different colored navy beans were dropped to count the readers entering the room. White beans were used for females, black for males.

As the city affairs increased, more room was needed by the "city fathers" for expanding services. Moving pressures were placed upon the Read-

ing Room. Likewise, there had developed a most annoying condition, threatening the use of the room by those who most needed the cultural environment—"the invasion of a fresh exhilarating manure odor" from the Fire Department stables on the ground floor. Many measures were tried to overcome the condition, such as nailing up doors and attempting new methods of entrance.



Nellie Briggs, first city librarian and widow of the first city attorney, Robert V. Briggs

Plagued by their expansion demands and this unsavory problem, a group of influential citizens met with the School Board in 1891 to take preparatory steps for the erection of a new library building. Plans were made for a brick or stone structure, three stories high, 50 feet wide, to be located on Biddle Avenue between the Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

The dream plans never materialized and the next library step was a move to the Bailey Block at the corner of Maple and First Streets in 1901. A fresh note of library philosophy was injected by this change in location. Major William Campbell as an argument for the moving of the library stated "that the taxpayers should be willing to expend a rental fee for this important service which is not like things political; it is something for the people to enjoy, people who possibly cannot afford to buy a book of their own and who depend on the public library for their amusement in the book reading way."

Carpets were laid and curtains were hung at the windows to make the new room inviting and cheerful. The Ladies' Auxiliary for the Emergency

Hospital donated leftover funds for pictures and statuary. The statuary comprised busts of Wagner, Shakespeare, Homer, Milton, and companion pieces of a tiger and lion. The pictures, eight in number, showed the Acropolis, ruins of the Amphitheater and of Titus, portraits of Emerson, Lincoln, Longfellow, Washington, and a view of ancient ruins.

The patrons appreciated the gifts of the ladies, since it "improved the appearance of the library wonderfully."

During the meantime, changes in library appointments took place. Mrs. Nellie Briggs died in 1896 and Miss Lillian Rogers (later the wife of Edward Bryan) was appointed to fill the vacancy. In 1900, Miss Ida Thon (later Mrs. George Melody) was appointed, holding the position until 1903. Miss Lizzie Conwell (later Mrs. Edward Beattie, Jr.) assumed the librarianship in 1903 following Ida Thon. Her supervision of reading services continued until 1915.



Carnegie Library, present location of Winkleman's Clothing store

Major James S. McGlaughlin became the second person to conceive of the library in worthier terms. He introduced to the public the consideration of a Carnegie Building. This proposal met an unhappy reception since industrial minded Wyandotters resented Andrew Carnegie and his labor attitude. It took diligent effort on the part of James McGlaughlin and his friends to secure the approval and final realization of a library building—the first and only building planned and constructed solely for a library purpose. A typical styled Carnegie building was erected on Biddle Avenue, the present location of Winkleman's Clothing Store.

The dedication took place May 15, 1915. Formal credit was granted ex-Mayor Dr. James S. McGlaughlin for his inception of an idea for a Carnegie Library. Superintendent Daly, the principal speaker, "enlarged upon the advantages of a public library where all can hold converse with kings, princes, and the great men of the earth."

The Carnegie building symbolized Andrew Carnegie's respective philosophy on library service:

"The most imperative duty of the state is the universal education of the masses. . . . I choose free libraries as the best agencies for improving the masses of the people, because they give something for nothing. They only help those who help themselves. They never pauperize. They reach the aspiring, and open to these the chief treasures of the world—those stored up in books. A taste for reading drives out lower tastes. I prefer the free public library to most if not any other agencies for the happiness and improvement of a community."

For the Carnegie period in library history, Miss Effie Hurst, daughter of James T. Hurst, was appointed the first librarian in 1915.

Between 1915 and 1940, circulation of books increased. An additional service of textbook sales for the public schools disturbed the quiet and order of the earlier days. When Miss Effie Hurst decided to resign in 1930, Miss Mary Stuart (later Mrs. William Hoad), a high school librarian, was appointed in charge with the title of Supervisor, and Miss Mae Girardin, daughter of carriage maker Joseph Girardin, was named assistant librarian. Miss Hazel Adair, a teacher in the public schools, was "loaned" in 1931 by the Superintendent of the schools to assist in cataloging books. After Miss Stuart's marriage, the Misses Girardin and Adair acted as co-assistant librarians under the Superintendent of Schools. After the death of Mae Girardin in 1938, Miss Hazel Adair, daughter of pioneer William Adair, was confirmed as Head Librarian.

Suddenly, in 1940, the library site was sold for business purposes, accompanied by an order for immediate abandonment of the Carnegie building. The library collection and staff were hustled into three rooms at the McKinley School to await developments.

Study committees were appointed, building plans discussed, locations argued, and stalemates encountered.

Then, for the third time, an individual concerned herself with the importance of a public library—Mary Ford Bacon, daughter of Edward Ford and granddaughter of Captain John B. Ford. The Mark Bacon family decided that the family home at the corner of Biddle Avenue and Vinewood, from which they had retired to California, should be given

to the citizens of Wyandotte as a public library. In the same spirit of Eber Ward and the first city planners who provided lots for churches and schools, the Bacons were aware that smoking factory chimneys did not make the full man. Perhaps it was the same idea which motivated the condition to the deed granted to the Board of Education, December 5, 1942, that the location should always be used for educational purposes.

Great rejoicing followed the announcement of the gift. Here, at last, it was thought, was a building "which would provide ample facilities for the library, a museum, a trophy hall and educational conference rooms for years to come." Here was a gift which would help to make possible an impressive civic center "with the City Hall at the south end of the block, and the Public Library at the north end of the block overlooking Bishop Park and the river to the east."

This was a gift which "further demonstrated the deep community interest which the Bacon family have always shown in the life of the city and their active promotion of its cultural growth and welfare. Their generosity with the present gift will long stand as a memorial to their high community ideals."

After this impressive gift had been accepted, the Board of Education took steps for the adoption of a plan, leading to the development of a modern library system. A Library Commission was appointed and empowered with an ordinance to conduct matters concerning the growth and welfare of the same. These first officers were: Charles S. Johnson, president; Mrs. Frederick W. Raubolt, vice-president; Mrs. Cora Hill, secretary; and the Reverend William F. W. Simon, the fourth member. The Superintendent of Schools became a member ex-officio. Miss Hazel Adair was reappointed Chief Librarian.

In keeping with the magnitude of the gift, an impressive dedicatory ceremony took place December 5, 1943, after which the doors were thrown open to the general public who were eagerly awaiting the opportunity to view the interior of the "grandest house in town."

Mrs. Loleta D. Fyan, State Librarian and distinguished speaker of the dedication, sounded the keynote and prepared the citizens for the library of the future and what a library could mean to a community. She emphasized, in professional terms, the purpose of libraries' reaching all the people and spreading knowledge and culture to all groups, irrespective of race or creed, and what a well-managed library could do in reducing the so-called maligned "juvenile delinquency" in every city.

The library of the future took shape with departmental divisions established, trained professional staff members employed, book collection en-

larged to include special subjects with special emphasis on technical matter to meet the needs of an industrial city. Complying with professional standards throughout the area and the state, the Commissioners found that the city could benefit from State Aid allotments and enjoy co-operative programs with other libraries which helped to enlarge the scope of local library service. Within a ten-year period, more had been accomplished than had been possible in seventy-five years.

In 1954, the opening of the Centennial year, there appeared to be a stalemate developing. Perhaps it was due to the fact that advancements had moved more rapidly than the civic organism could digest; perhaps it was because professionalism had brought resulting efficiency; perhaps it was the wise guidance of a conscientious Board of Commissioners whose membership had remained nominally unchanged throughout the ten years, with only two replacements being made because of resignations—Mrs. Roy Stack for Charles Johnson in 1947, and Wilfred Newell for Mrs. Cora Hill in 1950; or perhaps it was the sum total of all these factors which brought the library to a closed door of progress. The walls of a mansion could no longer stand the pressure of bulging book shelves, children and teen-age sections, technical and reference matter, inter-library loan and film services, cataloguing, book ordering, book discussion groups, priceless documents in local history and 40,000 picture collection. The Library Commission disbanded in January, 1954, through resignations and expirations of terms. The administration returned to the office of the Superintendent of Schools.

However, the philosophical benefits of the free public library still have remained within a building whose architectural features speak for the fortress of liberty that it represents. From the headquarters of professional librarians' associations to the desk of the librarians of local units, is exchanged the message:

"Now as always in our history, books are among our greatest instruments of freedom. They are almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. They are the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. They are essential to the extended discussion which serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections. We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the reader to choose freely from a variety of offerings."

CHAPTER 12

RECREATION

"This is to certify that John Doe has been elected a member of the Sons of Rest, having fully demonstrated his willingness to abstain from labor in any form.

(Signed) I. Neverwork, pres.

- "1. 23 for Willie
2. Keep off the Grass
3. Take to the Woods
4. Beware of Dogs."

Membership card, Sons of Rest, 1890

ALTHOUGH the people of the pioneer period lacked many of the modern recreational devices, they perhaps enjoyed their scant hours of leisure more keenly since their toil was more arduous. Jaded in body and mind, they were apt to seek recreation of a restful nature, at least on work days. After a hard day at the mill, most of the men were content to remain at home smoking their clay pipes, playing dominoes or checkers, and discussing with a friend or neighbor over "a pint" brought home in the bottom of a dinnerpail the news, the triumphs, the irritations of the day: the war between the States, the latest prize fight or cock fight, the output at the mill, the cow that trampled down the cabbages in the garden during the night.

The women, too, after long hours spent over the washboard or hot kitchen stove, had little inclination to gallivant. On the benches in the shady grape-arbors, at the garden gate, or over a cup of tea in the evening-cooled kitchen, they boasted of the size and whiteness of the day's wash, the number of loaves of bread baked, the meats and vegetables and fruits smoked and pickled and dried; and sometimes unburdened themselves of more intimate matters: "the lad's" (an anonymity used to conceal identity from young eavesdroppers) drinking, Johnny's latest misdemeanor and subsequent chastisement in the woodshed, the pain that caught them a-washday in the small of the back—the recounting of which usually culminated in a "good cry," unstigmatized in those pre-psychologian days by the analysis, "self-pity."

Often "refreshment of mind and body" was accompanied by re-creation: re-creating thread into lace for drawers and petticoats and white "Sunday" aprons, yarn into "picky" stockings and shapeless mittens with over-sized thumbs, bits of calico and gingham or worsteds into quilts which, after piecing, were the excuse for a "quilting-bee"; vari-colored strips of rags into balls for the carpet weaver's looms, which in turn would re-create them into rugs and carpets.

Just before the children's bedtime men and women, their shop-talk and divers humdrum topics exhausted, turned their conversation to the supernatural: stories of ghosts and banshees, which prickled the skin of adults and caused the children to huddle closer to their elders and search the shadows beyond the lamplight with frightened eyes.

At times there was dancing, reels and jigs and quadrilles, to the accompaniment of the jew's harp, zither, or violin; and singing, hymns and ballads and the songs popular in Civil War days, ditties inspiring young fry with equal enthusiasm for "the bonny, blue flag that bears a single star," and hanging "Jeff Davis to a sour apple tree."

Women who had more leisure gathered in each other's homes to listen to travel talks, read papers they had written on various themes: literature, household arts, gardening, bringing up children; and to discuss the problem of pioneer as well as modern parents, "to spank or not to spank."

For the children there were indoor games of "button, button," "pussy wants a corner," "blind man's buff," and the quieter games of "tip-tac-toe" and removing a pattern of string from the hands of one to form a different pattern on those of another, sometimes accompanied by a few peppermints or a plate of home-made molasses candy as refreshment.

Outdoors they rolled hoops, jumped rope, played tag, ball, duck-on-a-rock, and hide-and-seek in the large back yards, the vacant lots and the ditches. Few indeed were the children who owned the bicycles, tricycles, wagons, and roller skates of the present generation.

Outside their homes men of the pioneer period found recreation at the drug stores, grocery stores, barber shops, saloons, and the engine house where in their leisure time they discussed "the good old days" and current events while they smoked, chewed tobacco, inhaled snuff, imbibed the liquor on tap at one of the drug stores, or munched the free lunches provided by saloons and the crackers and cheese always available in open cracker barrels and on the counters of the grocery stores.

The group which congregated in the engine house called itself "The Engine House Club," and, according to Dolly Haven, "The Pickwick club, immortalized by Dickens, is not in it with our local organization

of oratory and gossip. The knights of ease have gained many members since the opening of the new year and the committee on ways and means will shortly ask the council to provide more roomy quarters. Some unknown friend donated the club a costly pack of playing cards to replace the soiled pasteboards so long in use. At the next meeting the president will read a paper on 'A trip to the Rouge in one of the Johnson



Maple Hall. Formerly located at corner of Maple and Third, the present site of the Fire Station. A social hall where many political speeches were made and celebrations took place.

refrigerators.' The poet laureate of the club has spun out the following sublime effort which will be set to music by a member of Warrick's band.

" 'Come where the club meets nightly
 'Neath the tower of the city hall;
 Where the city lights burn brightly
 And you can hear the news from all.

" 'Come where the boys are brothers
 As they sit in council grand—
 Telling strange tales of others,
 Oh, there's a joyous band.

“ ‘Come where the aces are trump cards
 And pedro is played every night;
 You’ll find us always gay pards
 And the fire burning bright.

“ ‘Then come where the club meets nightly,
 Come where the boys tell tales;
 Where the fire and lights burn brightly
 And fun and mirth prevails.’ ”

The need of the churches for funds to carry on their programs provided both toil and recreation for men and women alike in strawberry festivals, bazaars, church suppers, “experience” socials, Valentine festivals, and “Tours of the World.”

Strawberry festivals, at which ice cream, strawberries, and cake were served, were usually held out of doors in the evening on the church grounds or on a parishioner’s lawn lighted by strings of Japanese lanterns. A feature of one such festival, which was held on the lawn of Mrs. D. A. Babcock’s residence, was a balloon ascension.

Bazaars, church suppers, and “experience” socials all involved much labor: sewing, knitting, crocheting, cooking, baking, and even chopping wood, but were also the incentive for devising ingenious methods of recreation. At an “experience” social, which was given by the members of St. Patrick’s Church (“admission 10 cents”), R. T. Ganley read his experiences in collecting funds in rhyme illustrated by living pictures.

A Valentine festival, however, which was given by the ladies of the Presbyterian church, exacted a minimum of toil while providing—according to an advertisement in the *Wyandotte Herald*—incredible delight. The only requirement of participants was that they present themselves in festive garb to greet St. Valentine. The ladies were then presented with arrows and the gentlemen with bows, and at a given signal proceeded to “pierce the heart.” “Come, shake off the world and its cares and for one brief night live in the pure breath of love. Twenty-five cents will entitle you to share in the delicacies of St. Valentine’s feast,” was the invitation extended to the public.

A “Tour of the World” offered by the ladies of the Congregational church at a charge of twenty-five cents included refreshment and “all other expenses.” Transportation by “carriage, hay wagons, and other vehicles” was provided to “Washington,” which was the first stop and was located at the home of Mrs. J. H. Bishop where the travellers encountered an anomalous group: “George Washington and Martha,” who met them at the door; the “Goddess of Liberty,” who punched their

tickets; and "William McKinley," who presented them with a flag. The itinerary included "Boston," "Paris," "Tokyo," and "Havana," each city located at the home of a church member.

School and church plays, shows by various amateur groups, recitals, musicals, concerts by choral groups, such as the Arbeiter Maennerchor, and speeches also were sources of recreation for pioneer Wyandotters. "The last day of school" was always the occasion of an entertainment at Arbeiter Hall or Marx's Opera House where proud parents forgot the hours of labor and pangs of conscience it had cost them to buy brand new shoes for Johnny and Mary for their brief stage appearance when they could go barefooted now that school was out—and who could be sure that the shoes would not be too small for them come September?

The older children, those in high school, provided recreation by lyceums, where minds grown a bit dull with work and worry were stimulated by debates and speeches and delighted by a vocal or violin solo or piano duet.

Family bands such as Woodruff's, in which Mr. Woodruff played the banjo; Grace, twelve years old, played the piano; Maud, six years, the bass viol; and Myrtle, two and one-half, "kept excellent time on the triangle"; and Denman's band, in which Mr. Denman and his five children, Bertha, Belle, William, John, and Charles, made music with a drum and various types of wind instruments, supplemented the efforts of the City Band (later Warrick's) to refresh the minds and bodies of pioneers. Music teachers added their efforts for individual recreation. "Wyandotte is getting to be a musical town and no mistake," was the comment of a *Wyandotte Herald* of 1889. "Four music teachers have regular classes here; the soothing art is taught to every mother's son and daughter in the city, and the town has two bands and several orchestras on its hands."

However, Wyandotters were not obliged to rely only on home talent for entertainment. Occasionally a medicine show, a "Wild West" show, or a circus made its way by land or water to a vacant lot on the corner of Biddle Avenue and Sycamore Street, the commons south of the First Ward School, or the land now occupied by the Pennsylvania Salt Company. In 1896 Orton Brothers' circus featured a balloon ascension in which "Professor Somebody" alighted with a parachute near Louis George's. "The balloon came down in the main channel of the river below the Grassy Island Light." Another circus, in which a herd of elephants was being driven down the river road toward Wyandotte, encountered difficulties at Ecorse bridge when

the elephants, evidently sensing that the bridge would not bear their weight, balked at crossing it. Finally they were persuaded to swim across the creek to the other shore.

In 1911 another kind of outdoor recreation, the chautauqua, with "headliners in the departments of art, music and oratory," vied with the circus for popularity, but was discontinued ten years later.

Indoor recreation by out of town professionals was furnished when stock companies passing through the city on their way to Toledo stopped at Marx's Opera House or Arbeiter Hall to evoke sympathy



Party at Arbeiter Hall with the best dancing floor in town

for the pathetic heroine of East Lynn, to arouse uneasy presentiments of a possible future with the prototype of the archfiend in "Faust," or merriment at the antics of Murray and Mack in "Finnegan's 400."

Later, in the early years of the twentieth century, moving pictures and vaudeville acts at the Palace, the Star, and the Wyandotte provided entertainment for the small outlay of five cents.

Now and then, when a whole day or the greater part of it could be devoted to recreation, pioneer Wyandotters indulged in livelier forms of recreation: "keg parties" in the woods where rye bread and Schweitzer cheese were served with the contents of the keg; and picnics, which

were held at locations within walking distance of the town, since few possessed a means of conveyance other than their own two feet. Baisley's Grove, located beyond the viaduct on the north side of Eureka; Woodruff's Grove, located near Davis Street in what was then known as "Sand Hill"; and Emmons' Grove, located just south of Ecorse Creek, were all popular picnic grounds where young and old, men, women, and children found enjoyment. There tugs of war, races, and dancing invited healthful exercise; and beer, lemonade, ice cream, and picnic baskets overflowing with fried chicken and home-made cakes and pies furnished refreshment. The groves were provided with crude dance halls and were lighted at night by kerosene torches. The quadrille was the most popular of the dances since it gave the brawny, exuberant, young males from the Mill the opportunity to "swing that girl, that pretty, little girl" right off her pretty, little feet. A description of one such picnic at Woodruff's Grove has been described: "The beer stand was not doing a rushing business Saturday night on account of the cold atmosphere. At the ladies' stand a few boys had the fortitude to tackle the ice cream although it sent a shiver down the ordinary spine. . . . Here as elsewhere the three points of interest were the dance platform, the beer stand, and the ladies' refreshment stand. . . . At one end of the plank floor was stationed the orchestra while in front of it engaged in lively tete-a-tete were the dancers waiting for the music to begin. 'One more couple this way,' shouted the floor manager. The needed couple enters. The cry for one more couple goes on. Finally . . . the man with the powerful lungs sends forth a cheery, 'Let her go, Gallagher,' and the fun begins. . . . One muscular fellow lifted his girl fairly off the floor and sent her feet flying at an angle of 90 degrees."⁷⁴

More restrained and probably much less fun was the dancing at private parties at the Biddle House, Bank Hall, and the River Park Hotel. Four to six men made all the arrangements and went with a two-wheeled cart to the homes of the ladies who were invited. The cart was drawn up to the window so that the lady could avoid stepping into the mud. Chairs were placed in the corners of the cart near which the men stood like guards. One young lady was so dressed that she had to stand both going and coming—and, we presume, during the entire evening. The parties ended as decorously as they began with the saying of grace when refreshments were served at midnight.

⁷⁴*Wyandotte Herald*, Sept. 1887.

Not all the dancing parties given at Biddle House, Bank Hall, and River Park Hotel were sedate, however. On one occasion the dignified Biddle House was the scene of much hilarity when a very dignified lady lost her bustle which the young bloods of the town kicked about the dance floor the entire evening.

Other dancing parties were rollicking affairs at which whites impersonating colored people went round and round the hall in a dance called the "Cake Walk" to the music of "A Hot Time in the Old Town."

"Shirt-waist" parties, which were informal affairs, were probably originated by a young miss to whom the costume was particularly becoming or whose financial condition prohibited the purchase of a party frock.

A small part of the male population gave informal parties too, prompted neither by vanity nor pecuniary difficulties but by that peculiarly masculine trait which delights in gambling and blood-letting, whether of men, bulls, or chickens. A whispered announcement of a surreptitious cock fight now and then lured a few pioneer Wyandotters to an unpublicized rendezvous. One such affair, which was scheduled to be held over a Second Ward saloon February 25, 1898, and at which twenty Detroiters had gathered, was prevented by Marshal Murphy.

Healthier "refreshment of mind and body" were the occasional dinners of muskrat in which the marshy regions near the town abounded, and golf, which pioneer Wyandotters played as early as 1899 near the Bishop factory.

Added opportunity for recreation was provided Wyandotters by their proximity to Detroit and the advent of the Wyandotte and Detroit River Railway. Trolley parties became a popular diversion on warm summer evenings. The route along the river road between Detroit and Trenton was a lovely one—the view of God's handiwork was almost entirely unobstructed; the cars were colorfully decorated with flags and bunting and electric lights; gay music furnished by the Wyandotte City Band muted the din of the car's motor and grinding wheels, and at the end of the trip refreshments of ice cream and cake or sometimes an entire meal at the Commercial Hotel in Trenton or the Arlington in Wyandotte added all that was lacking to complete a perfect evening.

The river, however, punctuated here and there by small islands, was the most lavish provider of recreation. In icy weather it lent its polished surface to the flying feet of skaters and the hooves of racing horses drawing the sleighs of competing sportsmen. In summer it

offered blessed refreshment to a heat-baked populace without bath tubs and showers. From the sandy beach at the foot of Cherry Street and the marshy knoll at the "Old Root," located on the present site of Michigan Alkali Plant No. 2, those who could not swim waded into its cooling water; the expert swimmer dove into it from the banks of the shipyard slip and the docks of the Rolling Mill and River Park Hotel. In the early part of the twentieth century when most of the river front had been cut off from the public by industry, a free bathing beach was provided by the civic-minded Eberts Brothers Company on their property on Van Alstyne Boulevard—then Front Street—between Poplar and Walnut Streets.

Crisp breezes and the thrill of riding the swells made by passing freighters were the river's offering to those who fared forth on it in boats, sailboats, rowboats, canoes, and the larger craft built both for profit and pleasure. The "May D" gleefully contributed to the delinquency of Wyandotters who failed to keep holy the Lord's Day—so said the "blue noses" of the period—by taking small groups of people weary from the toil of the week on delightful short trips; and the larger boats, the "Riverside," the "Wyandotte," and others, took them on daylight and moonlight excursions to the green bit of wilderness, "a virgin forest of huge oaks and elms," near the head of Lake Erie, Sugar Island. There a fenced-in bathing beach, a dance hall, and competitive games, tugs of war and races offered a variety of entertainment and also rewards such as: oak rockers, seal caps, fancy vests, jardiniere stands. In later years Bois Blanc (now Bob-lo) supplanted Sugar Island in popularity when various organizations sponsored excursions to the pleasure spot.

Not far from Sugar Island but too unimportant to warrant the visits of the "Riverside" and "Wyandotte," lay Hickory Island inviting Wyandotters to enjoy longer periods of recreation than the few hours afforded them on an excursion; and few Wyandotters who were able to avail themselves of the invitation ignored it. The north end of the island, the south end, the middle were populated by campers in all walks of life from Tannery employees to successful business and professional men. "Camp Fredo" harbored a youthful group of which the boys fished, the girls cooked, and both went to Sugar Island every night to dance. "Camp Edith" was the luxurious private camp of the Eberts family. A description of it is given in a *Wyandotte Herald* of July, 1891: "Camp Edith . . . consists of two spacious tents with an open space between, sheltered by an awning which forms the dining room.

Both of the tents have planked floors, while one of them is carpeted and contains a melodeon."

A typical camper's day is described in the same issue: "If angling is on the program, the fish must be cleaned and cooked for breakfast. . . . After breakfast little chores about camp are attended to, followed by a lounge on the grass or in the hammock. The steamer *Riverside* reaches Sugar Island at 11:30 and every camp sends over a boat to get supplies, papers and letters from home or to welcome visiting friends; then a return to camp and a resumption of eating. After dinner the campers lounge about in hammocks, read or go fishing or sailing, busying themselves according to their own inclinations. At half past five the *Riverside* again reaches Sugar Island, and there is the same swarm of boats from the camps. Supper is served about six and is followed by music, bathing, story-telling, and perhaps a camp fire or a dance in the hall on Sugar Island"—for which the ladies made themselves enchanting in blue flannel dresses, sailor hats, tennis shoes, and corsages of "roses de Hickory."

Various holidays also gave Wyandotters, old and young alike, opportunities for recreation. Washington's and Lincoln's birthday, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving, and, of course, Christmas and Easter, were the occasion of speeches, recitations, and song.

St. Valentine's Day brought excitement to school children when studies were laid aside and teacher extracted from a box and read aloud tender messages sent by children in the throes of puppy love to the objects of their affection. "Were you a flower and I a bee, a honeyed kiss I'd steal from thee," read one message which caused the entire class to turn amused eyes on a squirming classmate.

St. Patrick's Day brought a respite from the rigors of Lent not only to the Irish but to fellow Catholics of other nationalities as well when they were permitted to indulge in a card party or dance at Arbeiter Hall or Marx's, a musical entertainment, vaudeville show, or drama.

The Fourth of July, however, was and still remains the most important holiday of the year. At home the family was treated to that rare and delicious concoction, ice cream, delivered from Mehlhoses' in a tin container set in a wooden bucket filled with ice. In the morning a parade, its stirring music inciting patriotic goose pimples, marched through the dusty streets. All day long firecrackers bought with "Fourth of July" money, the only spending money most pioneer children possessed from year's end to year's end, popped and sputtered. In the

evening papa supervised the shooting of the more dangerous and complicated fireworks, sky rockets and Roman candles.

The early Fourth of July celebrations were conceived and sponsored by citizens of German origin through the medium of the Arbeiter Society. The Germans took their American patriotism seriously and, since the Arbeiter Society was the largest and most influential organization in town, their leadership in social activities was accepted without question. The Society's influence after the first World War was lessened, but the tradition of Fourth of July celebrations had been so well established that when the Veterans of Foreign Wars took over the Arbeiter building they also became custodians of its traditions. The Veterans of Foreign Wars have continued to sponsor the elaborate celebrations of ensuing years in cooperation with the City Recreation Department. It was because of the inherent tradition of Fourth of July that the Centennial Planning Committee chose July 4, 1954, as the opening salute in Wyandotte's one-hundredth birthday week.

Many modern Wyandotters still find recreation as the pioneers did—only the environment has changed. The grocery store, drug store, saloon, and engine house groups still discuss (without the benefit of free lunches and liquor) the “good old days” and current events in the log cabin in Bishop Park; their women folk join them in various clubs, in Golden Age circles, at the Y. M. C. A., and in the “Great Books” discussions at the public library. The speeches, lectures, and debates of the lyceums and Chautauquas were more recently enjoyed in the Civic Lecture series which, however, have been discontinued. School and church plays and those staged by amateur theatrical groups, of which the Wyandotte Community Theater is the latest, still are a source of pride and recreation to participants and audience alike. Bands and choral societies and music teachers still flourish along with several forms of recreation: art clubs, photography clubs, stamp clubs, and others.⁷⁵

Although the influence of mechanical development at the turn of the century has been well recognized in its effect on economic life, few people have given much thought to the effect it had upon leisure time employment. The advent of the automobile expanded the areas for pleasures; no longer were local picnic grounds and swimming holes sufficient. Factory shift workers, working mothers, small city lots,

⁷⁵Description of pioneer recreation written by Winifred Stoddard LeBar.

housing units, and apartment dwellings shifted the recreational interests from the home and church to the direction of governmental planning agencies. Likewise, the improvement of health measures and designated retirement programs produced a need for more formal social organization in the pursuit of fun and happiness.

The transition from the self-contained to organized recreational life was made less abrupt because sports had been an organized entertainment in the pioneer period.

Baseball won first place in the hearts of Wyandotters as well as in the nation. Twenty-one years after the War Between the States, and twelve years before the sinking of the Battleship Maine, regularly scheduled games between organized local teams were a common occurrence. We are told in the pages of the *Wyandotte Herald* that on August 13, 1886, "a remarkable game of baseball was played between two Third Ward nines the fore part of the week. The score was phenomenal and stood 64 to 20 at the end of the game."

Only after one has become familiar with the story of the Old Timers and their prodigious diamond exploits, can he really appreciate the importance of baseball to Wyandotte. It literally grew up with the town and has become an integral part of her heritage of the past and her contribution to the future. These stalwarts scaled the Olympian heights, and a nostalgic reminiscence of their days of glory brings back in retrospect voices of "angels in the outfield." Their names are legion, hence no list. Wyandotte knows each and every one.

Who will ever forget the "good old days" when outdoor and indoor baseball was at its height in Michigan and Ontario? Who does not stand in reverent awe at the tales of the Old Border League championship team, managed by John L. Sullivan? And what red-blooded sports lover does not feel a catch in his throat at the mention of such names in the Valhalla of baseball as the "Shamrocks," the "Hobnails," the "Resolutes," the old J. H. Bishop Company "Tannery Team" which became the representative of Wyandotte and was managed by Bartley Doyle, with Henry Roehrig secretary-treasurer, and "Cody" Hendricks assistant manager? There were other teams that kept Wyandotte and the institutions they represented in the forefront of baseball in the State, such as "The Clerks Team," "The Herald," the "Michigan Alkali Team with 'Wish Eagen' and the Sullivan Boys."

We read, with eyes agog, that on July 12, 1895, the J. H. Bishop Company team defeated Bartley Doyle's nine by a score of 21 to 10,

Saturday afternoon. The feature of the game aside from persistent kicking, was a difficult catch by John Sullivan who did excellent work in the field.

Again in 1896 we find an account of a game between the "Heralds" versus the "Howards" of Detroit. The game was forfeited to Wyandotte in the fifth inning because "Kirby of the Heralds was making for home, when two of the Howards held him until the catcher touched him. The umpire properly refused to call Kirby out, and the game broke up in a row."



"Forty Acres" Race Track

The games were mostly played on the old Forty Acres in the center of the race track, and in later years (1921), a team called the "Hillsiders" (why the name, no one knows, unless they were "up and coming") played regularly on Corrigan field opposite the Penn Salt on lower Biddle Avenue.

In 1901 the Michigan Alkali Club provided a ball field for the city. Where can one find a better picture of the dedication of this public sports arena than the description written by that peerless reporter, Dolly Haven:

"In the midst of a raw, cold wind, that chilled spectators to the bone, the new athletic field of the Michigan Alkali Club, on Biddle Avenue South, was opened Saturday afternoon with a game of baseball between the local team and the Detroit College nine. There were exactly 658 spectators to witness the opening game and this number would have been increased several hundred had comfortable weather prevailed. Preceding the game there was a street parade participated in by Warrick's band, the opposing ball teams, and the members of the Common Council, all in carriages arrived at the grounds. . . . Mayor Campbell, after several congratulatory speeches . . . threw a ball over the plate, about ten feet above the head of Old Welch, who was there to catch it. The latter called for another ball, but he failed to locate it and the sphere pounded against the padded backstop in front of the grandstand and thus was the new field opened. The city officials retired, the ball players lined up, and the game was on."



Baseball Team of 1907

Top row, left to right: James Pinson, Chester Abbott, Robert Murphy, John Murphy, John Sullivan, Stephen Orr, George Genther. Second row: Ed. Milspaugh, Ted Moxson, Harrison (Benny) Woodruff, Frank Loiselle, Charles Boettner, Harry Mehlhose.

Baseball rivalry between Wyandotte and Flat Rock was very keen as early as 1900. In 1907 Wyandotte High School defeated Central High of Detroit and became champion of Wayne County. Central was even permitted to play its postgraduates. The Detroit papers wrote

that Wyandotte was a baseball town which would be heard from in the years to come, and went on to observe that even though the kids were little by comparison, they had been taught to hold a baseball bat from the time they began to walk. And in 1912 Wyandotte won the Border League championship. Some of the "classiest ball playing by the Alkali team was witnessed here, not barring the big leagues." A banquet was held in honor of the team, and the citizens presented each member a leather suit case made by Beals and Selkirk; E. L. Ford gave individually styled stick pins, and the Michigan Alkali ordered sweater jackets for the entire team.

Who will ever forget the Municipal team of 1908, that cleaned up on all comers? In a red hot game August 22, they defeated the Ford Village team and as a reward were treated to a "feed" at the Wellington, on the Canadian side of the river.

Wyandotte has sent her representatives to the big leagues from time to time, and many into the semi-pro ranks. But she had to wait sixty-six long years from the time the two Third Ward nines played that game with the phenomenal score, until another phenomenon blossomed among the stars in the baseball firmament. The year was 1952—October 8—and, in the words of H. G. Salsinger, "it was a left hander who crushed Brooklyn's dying hopes and insured the Yankees of their fourth consecutive World Series title. The left hander was Robert Leroy Kuszava. He entered the scene in the seventh inning with the bases filled and only one batter retired. The Yankees were leading 4 to 2 and a solid hit would have tied the score. The solid hit was not forthcoming. Kuszava shackled the Dodgers completely. He retired the next two batters on infield flies to end the inning, and the only Dodger who reached first base after that was Gil Hodges, who got on as the result of a wild throw by Gil McDougald on an easy grounder in the eighth. One year ago Kuszava finished the sixth and deciding game of the World Series against the Giants, safeguarding the Yankees' lead." Yes, it was a long stretch of time from 1886 to 1952, but in that time Wyandotte presented to the baseball world a player who goes into the record books as having won the deciding game of the World Series two years in succession. Indeed, Wyandotte's name should go down in the annals of time as a contributor to athletic fame.

Indoor baseball assumed almost equal stature during this period. In 1906 Wyandotte, under the managership of Carl Schroeder, held the state championship and defeated Chicago for the national title. In

1907 they played Owosso at Ann Arbor for the championship, but due to rabid partisan tactics by officials, the game ended in a row.

Whether or not the ability to compete in athletics on an equal footing with the male element was in any way a harbinger of the demands for the right to vote, it could very well have expedited the suffrage movement. Long before granting the vote to women became a paramount political issue, the fair sex had invaded the realm of baseball. As early as 1892 women's indoor baseball teams made Wyandotte one of the stops on their itinerary. The "American Stars" appeared in that year and the *Herald* dutifully reported that "although from the East, they are not representative of the first families. In fact, they're a 'bummy' looking lot, clearly in better touch with beer than Browning. In the second place they can't play ball. There is no question about their capacity for drinking beer, but they can't play ball."

But the day that capped the climax, the "red letter" day in Wyandotte, was in 1900 when the Boston Bloomer Girls' indoor baseball team appeared for a game. This event really set the town agog and created more interest at the moment than the drilling for gas at the Eureka Iron Works. How this inherent love (?) of baseball crossed all boundary lines and literally rocked the town to its social foundations can best be learned from the account which appeared in the *Herald* stating that "they played an alleged game of ball with the Michigan Alkali Club. Staid matrons, church deacons, and even Trenton's Jake Rieger, who had never witnessed a game before in his life, paid over their good money to see the girls toss the sphere. The seats were all taken, and hundreds of people stood up while the trees across the street from the canvas fence were filled with people."

Coming down to the present time, the Quality Coal team won the Junior State baseball championship in Class I (1949). In 1952 a baseball championship in Class A came to Wyandotte for the first time in the history of the Recreation Department, and in 1954 the Michigan Recreation Association chose Wyandotte for the scene of the state softball tournament.

The first recreational activity in 1899 was the promotion through the efforts of Mrs. J. S. Van Alstyne of two basketball teams whose membership consisted of girls of the Wyandotte High School. Today basketball flourishes as a winter sport, with the backing and sponsoring of teams by the Department of Recreation.

Although baseball looms largest in the sports panorama, football is almost its contemporary on the Wyandotte scene. A Wyandotte High School team played its first game of football November 12, 1898, losing to Detroit High 11 to 5. There were but few high schools in the state playing football, and only a small number of midwestern colleges had taken up the sport. The first team took on all comers—played two



Wyandotte High School Football Team of 1898. This was the first Wyandotte team to play modern football. Norman E. (Bummer) Coan was the captain, Jerome H. Bishop, Jr., of Yale University, the coach, and E. Leydon (Pat) Ford, the manager. Top row, left to right: E. P. (Perce) Clark, Joseph (Spin) Matthews, Jerome H. Bishop, Jr., E. Leydon Ford, William (Bill) C. Lawrence, A. L. (Abe) Schuffert. Middle row: Leo Berendt, Edward (High) Milsbaugh, Albert T. (Bunny) Burns. Bottom row: James G. (Jim) Pinson, Fred (Zitz) Loeffler, John McKnight, Norman E. Coan, Mark Smith, Charles H. Denman.

games in successive years against University of Detroit and lost 17 to 0 and 12 to 11. Players on the University of Detroit team at that time came from Wyandotte, and because of this the games were arranged. Jerome H. Bishop, Jr., who had returned from Yale but a short time previously, was the coach, and he brought Wyandotte some of the plays being used by the great Eastern team. It was largely through his efforts that football teams were organized in Wyandotte.

In 1900 Wyandotte claimed the amateur championship of Wayne County and the state among teams of their weight. In 1901 a party of young men whose weight averaged 135 pounds organized the Wyandotte Herald football team and scheduled games with teams of like weight. What devotee of football will ever forget the gridiron glory achieved by the "Arrows" and the "Indians" as their cleats tore up the turf on Old Corrigan and the Alkali field? The team colors of the "Arrows" were green and gold, and their jerseys were marked with the team's insignia—a huge circle with an arrow through the center. Their technique of gaining financial support as well as spectators at the games was unique. Passes were sold to patrons who contributed whatever their feelings dictated. The "Indians" achieved everlasting fame by winning the championship of the Southwestern Michigan football league in 1932.

Much more could be written about the prowess of these two gridiron giants, but neither space nor time will permit. Suffice it to say that their names as well as the records they achieved have been inscribed in the annals of football immortality. Baseball and football are the great truly American games, and Wyandotte has fostered both sports in her efforts to build good citizens, good sports, and true Americans.

The illustrious story of boating began in 1875 in the parlor of John McKnight's home on Oak street where a group of men gathered together to form a boat club. John McKnight was a shipyard man whose zeal and activity became so much a part of rowing events that in the olden days he was considered as important to boating "as the Statue of Liberty is to New York Harbor."

The first venture of the club was to purchase a ten-oared barge from LaChampelle of Detroit. A small boathouse was erected at the foot of Vinewood to shelter the barge. The muscular crew was composed of John McKnight, A. Griffor, T. T. Busha, F. Wolcott, John McCloy, D. Campau, E. Thiede, M. Ganley, A. Raubolt, and J. Ashman. J. Crane, A. Trites, and J. Ashman acted as Coxswains.

It was a gala evening when the barge first made her appearance on the river. She was greeted with enthusiastic acclamations from the crowded balconies of the clubhouse and by the "multitudes" that lined the river's edge. The barge was painted a light orange inside, blue outside, with a gold stripe running her full length just below the gunwale. The members of the crew and boat club, numbering twenty-eight, were all uniformed with white shirts and skull caps worked in blue on the breasts. They pulled a strong, even stroke and continued

rowing from 7:30-10:00. It was their desire to enter the River Navy⁷⁰ and pull in the races on the Fourth.

The first race ever won by the oarsmen was on July 4, 1876. The first victory was only a start, victory after victory being won in succession, including the River Navy Championship.

Finally so successful were the Wyandotte men and so difficult to defeat that Detroit selected ten men whom they considered their best oarsmen and challenged the local crew to a contest on the river. The Wyandotte crew accepted the challenge and again came out victorious. To honor the victory, a big celebration was staged in the orchard below the Alkali. For this occasion John McKnight composed a song which gave in verse form the story of the "Bonnie Blue Racer":

"There came a bold challenge one Saturday morning
From ten of Detroit's best picked crew,
To row us a race at foot of yon corner;
So be ready, my boys, to get out of here.

"The challenge came late and our crew were not ready;
No practice had we since we'd won the Blue Flag.
Our stroke too was ill, although Campau pulled steady,
But we'll try, said the boys, to stop their bold brag.

"Are you all in procession, and are you all ready?
Came over the waters from judges so clear;
Yes, ready and gone, cried Ashman quite steady,
So now, my brave fellows, let's get out in the clear.

"Now all of Detroit's were expert oarsmen
And should they get lost what would their friends say,
So when it came night we took pity upon them
And went down ahead to show them the way.

"Then three cheers and a tiger for our Bonnie Blue Racer;
How lovely she looks on the waters so blue!
There is none in this wide world can ever replace her
In the hearts of her gallant young Wyandotte crew."⁷¹

⁷⁰The Detroit River Navy was an organization of rowing clubs built up of ten-oar barge crews.

⁷¹Bonnie Blue Racer song was sung to the air of a Civil War song "Cumberland Crew." John McKnight was the author of another song called "The Y & . Crew." The origination of the abbreviation for Wyandotte, so widely recognized, is also credited to John McKnight. Shortly after the inception of the first rowing crew and the purchase of uniforms, it was decided the name Wyandotte was too long to embroider on the sweater, hence the abbreviation.

Most of the men of the crew were employed at the old rolling mill, and, following a day's work of ten to twelve hours, the oarsmen would go down to the boathouse and pull for several miles. "They were as hard as nails and in perfect physical condition." All races were easy for these hardy boatmen, and eleven victories were credited to their skill within a four-year period.

One pioneer relates that "Detroit was always easy for them, as was Ecorse, and one time after defeating Detroit in one of the early races, the oarsmen rowed back from the Motor City, stopping off at Ecorse to rub it into the Ecorseites. These men would not believe the victory of the Wyandotters, and they were immediately challenged to a race on the river. The challenge was accepted and no small amount of money changed hands as a result. Although Wyandotte's sweep pullers rowed to Detroit and then pulled in the race and finally rowed back to Ecorse, a sufficient day's work in any man's life, the Ecorse crew was given a sound whipping by the hardened rolling mill men."

In 1879 four men were selected from one of the original barges to form a four-oared shell crew: Daniel Campau, stroke; Netza Hoersch, 2; Nicholas Griffor, 3; and William Bryan, bow.

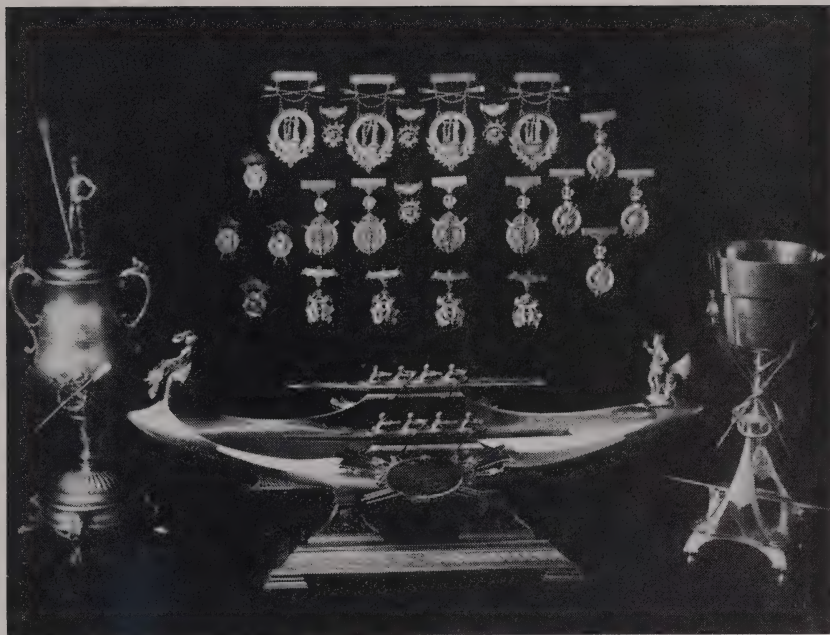
In their initial race at Toledo, Ohio, these men defeated Schwahcemettes of Monroe who were champions of America. Encouraged by this success, the crew journeyed to Saratoga Springs, New York, to enter the National contest, but upon arrival Campau was taken ill and the crew was unable to row. The following year they disbanded.

It was not until 1891 that another crew of championship calibre again appeared: Columbus Busha, Edward B. Nellis, William R. Ocobock, and N. T. Langlois. This crew won victory after victory until 1892, when they ascended to the grand climax of oarsmanship in winning the Championship of America at Saratoga Springs, New York.

Although the championship four-oared crew continued to row and win races all up and down the Detroit River at Port Huron, Detroit, Ecorse, and Toledo, adding one medal after another to their imposing display, no boating event before or since has been able to eclipse the historic National Championship of 1892. Doubtlessly, the indelible memory was etched by the congratulatory celebration which out-celebrated all others in Wyandotte.

We shall let an eye-witness, Dolly Haven, describe it for us:

"Preliminaries for the celebration were duly noted in last week's *Herald*. Friday noon about 75 citizens, many of them bearing flags and brooms, and



Trophies and medals won by the championship boating crew, 1892

all wearing blue badges containing a rooster rampant and the legend 'Y & B. C.,' boarded the Riverside for Detroit. The delegation was accompanied by the Wyandotte cornet band. Arrived in Detroit, a line of march was formed and the crowd proceeded to the Michigan Central depot, where they met the victors, Messrs. Busha, Langlois, Ocobock, Nellis, as well as Dr. T. J. Langlois, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bishop and son, Clive, ex-Mayor Campbell, August Loeffler and Frank Marx who attended the races at Saratoga. After vociferous cheers and hand shakings, the returned pilgrims were seated in hacks and the column moved up Jefferson Avenue, the band meanwhile making things lively. Turning into Woodward Avenue, the procession continued up that thoroughfare to Michigan and out Michigan to the Cadillac Hotel, where the crew were given dinner. Following this, the afternoon was devoted to hearing particulars of the races at Saratoga. At seven o'clock the Wyandotte delegation rendezvoused at the Cadillac and from there marched to the foot of First Street, where the Riverside was boarded for home.

"While in Detroit, Wyandotte's representatives succeeded in letting the people of that city know that Wyandotte was doing something in the boating line—information that they have heretofore been unable to get from their daily papers.

"The evening trip down the river was enlivened by band music and several songs by Ab. Brown. At Ecorse some rousing cheers were given, but it was not

until the boat came within shouting distance of Wyandotte that the crowd let themselves loose. Captain DeSana pulled the whistle on the boat for all there was in it, while every whistle in town shrieked in response, the factories having all kept up steam for that purpose. As the boat touched the Oak Street landing a magnificent sight was presented. At the corner of Oak and Front streets a monster bonfire was flaring almost sky-high. Fifteen hundred people—men, women, and children—were packed into Oak Street from the river to Biddle Avenue, overflowing on to the Avenue. Stretched from the Eureka laundry to Marx Brothers' Brewery was a large banner with the inscription, 'Wyandottes, Welcome Home.' Business places in the vicinity were decorated with flags and chinese lanterns. On the dock was stationed the Excelsior band. After the victorious oarsmen had been seated in a hack, the bands had commenced playing, and the 1,500 throats gave out round after round of applause, the spectacle presented was one not soon to be forgotten. No victorious army, fresh from bloody triumphs on the field of battle, was ever given a more royal welcome home.

"But the ovation had only commenced. At Biddle Avenue, the procession, headed by Chief Marshal E. N. Drouillard on horseback, turned south, going down as far as Eureka Avenue. Most of the business places, as well as many private residences, were decorated, and the entire line of march, down Biddle to Eureka and back to the boathouse, was illuminated by red fire and fireworks. President T. J. Langlois sat in the hack containing the oarsmen and proudly bore aloft the handsome silk championship banner, which, in addition to large, heavy gold and silver medals, was captured at Saratoga. As the column marched along, the vehicle bearing the victors was pressed on both sides by citizens anxious to offer personal congratulations. If the *Herald* scribe's eyesight was not at fault, there were also quite a number of young ladies who mingled with the men in paying their compliments.

"The procession arrived at the boathouse about ten o'clock, where all who could do so crowded into the hall upstairs. Feminine hands had trimmed the hall neatly with flags and banners, one of the latter reading, 'All hail to the champions, Ta-ra-ra, Boom-de-ay.' The four young men in the crew, modest even after an ovation like this, were invited to seats on the platform, as well as those who attended the Saratoga races, and President Hewitt of the Wolverine Boat Club, Detroit. President Langlois made a telling and comprehensive speech detailing the struggle at Saratoga and placing a high estimate upon the achievements of the Wyandotte four. He declared that the four young men sitting on the platform were the fastest oarsmen in the world today, and the way the crowd made the building shake showed that they were all with him. The doctor said that in the final heat on Thursday, he drew just three breaths in the nine minutes consumed in the race."

Serving as a Junior crew at the same time the foregoing were winning

senior championships were: Clyde Baxter, Billy Drummond, Henry Weatherwax, and John Ocobock who did some fine rowing and became senior scullers by winning the race at Hillsdale, Michigan.

In 1891 the boathouse at the foot of Vinewood burned, including a four-oared shell and the famous blue ten-oared racer. Within a year a new clubhouse was erected at the foot of Poplar Street and duly dedicated with a regatta and reception. One of the interesting features of the regatta was the ladies' race. There were two entries: the Misses Mabel Mason and May Milkins forming one crew, and the Misses Bertha Denman and Mabel Clark, the other. The first named crew won by six or eight lengths.

Another outstanding team appeared in 1903. In that year a crew made up of James Bryan, bow; James Sweeney, 2; Warren Girardin, 3; Henry Weatherwax, stroke, was organized. This crew won their Junior and Senior races but were prevented from going further by the burning of the clubhouse again and the complete loss of equipment.

There followed an elapse of rowing for several years until the American Legion organized a new eight-oared rowing crew in 1923, giving Wyandotte the distinction of having the only American Legion rowing team in the United States. A new boathouse in which to house the shells was completed adjoining the Legion clubhouse. The team raced for several years with varied success. Then in 1926 the tide seemed to turn for Wyandotte. From a crew of green oarsmen who had trained with grim determination came the winning of the famous Hanlon Memorial Trophy two years in succession, 1926 and 1927, thus granting Wyandotte the distinction of being the first American team in rowing history to have accomplished such a feat.

Likewise, the year 1927 had been chosen as the year for the meeting of the National Regatta at Elizabeth Park, Trenton. It did not seem possible, especially to the visiting teams from the East,⁷⁸ that Wyandotte

⁷⁸In 1950 a member of one of these Eastern teams visited the local library to review the 1927 event, explaining to the local librarian that the Wyandotte victory was an experience he had never forgotten. He explained that he and his crewmates came to the regatta with a disdainful attitude toward the small western town which they felt couldn't possibly have a crew worthy of their time or effort. The resulting victory humbled their pride to such an extent that twenty-three years later when assigned as a salesman in this area this gentleman felt drawn to return to the scene of his incredible defeat as an oarsman as well as in pride and to express his awesome respect for Wyandotte.

would be able to win another championship; such good luck was unprecedented. However, cheered on by the hoarse cries of local fans, the Wyandotte crew crossed the finish line on August 6, 1927, as National Champions of the United States and Canada. The crew that stepped out of the shell to the wild acclaim of the spectators were: James Mason, Columbus Bourassa, William McClenahan, Case Baisley, Roy Simpson, Arman Roth, Lynn Bryan, Milton Moore, and Robert Gerth. Clyde Ludwig had been trainer.

Over the succeeding years, the teams continued their victorious prestige beginning with the participation in the United States Olympic tryouts in 1928. National Championship did not return to Wyandotte until 1943, after High School rowing had been instituted. In that year, under the coaching of William E. Kreger, Wyandotte's four-oared team won the Philadelphia Schoolboy National Championship, with Justin LeBar, stroke; John Bosman, 3; Sidney Fogel, 2; Elmer J. Stymiest, bow; and Paul Thearling, Coxswain. Three years later, in 1946, Richard Kazlowski, James Fisher, Virgil Lapinski, William Partch, and John Bashore, a junior crew, won the American Scholastic Championship at Philadelphia. This last championship was won under great difficulty since their boat had several leaks and the rough water in the Schuylkill River caused three to four inches of water in the bottom of the boat throughout the mile course.

There is no ending to the story of Wyandotte's boating progress; it can only be said that the victories of Wyandotte's oarsmen are not a thing of today or yesterday, but of time immemorial—it is in oarsmanship that Wyandotte athletes have achieved their highest honors and greatest distinction.

Every oarsman knows that the fragile racing shell is the secret of many hard won races, and so Wyandotte Boat Club members have taken a great pride in the number of shells that have been christened under inspiring circumstances. There was the J. H. Bishop shell, purchased by the City Council in 1928, which was christened "with water from the most beautiful river in the world" by Della Bishop, daughter of Jerome Holland Bishop, in the spirit that the crews of this shell would reach as high a position in oarsmanship as Mr. Bishop had in citizenship.

The spirit of past victories marked the occasion of the christening of the shell given by the Wyandotte Exchange Club to the Boat Club in 1929. William Bryan, survivor of the 1879 four-oared crew, and Dr. N. T. Langlois, Columbus Busha, and Ed Nellis, survivors of the 1892 cham-

pionship crew, pulled the oars to initiate this boat's first trip down the river. Catherine Gaynier, daughter of the Exchange Club's first president, christened the shell with water from the Detroit river, purified at the local filtration plant.

In 1934 several thousand people turned out to witness the christening ceremony for the boat given by the Ford Motor Company in cooperation with Pardo Automobile Sales Incorporated. Catherine D'Anna, twelve-year-old daughter of Anthony D'Anna, vice-president of Pardo Sales, poured the contents of "good old river water" over the bow of the boat with these words: "I now christen her Ford V-8 and wish her crews much success and a long list of victories. Win or lose, may her emblem, Ford V-8, be one always of good sportsmanship."

A car raffle in 1946 helped the Junior Chamber of Commerce to provide a gift shell to the Wyandotte Boat Club; it was named the Jaycee One.

Crews today may also build upon the respect and foundations of the past which have been fostered and developed over the years by the devotion of outstanding members of the Wyandotte Boat Club and by the tutelage offered by the club's coaches. During the reorganization years of the American Legion era, Dr. Robert Ashley and Edward Bryan revitalized the dormant civic interest in Wyandotte's most natural sport.

Inspiration for oarsmanship was genuinely stimulated by the youthful zeal and enthusiasm of William E. Kreger who doubled as president of the Boat Club as well as coach for the High School rowing crews during the 1940's.

When High School rowing was organized early in 1943, the townspeople accepted the idea philosophically as an encouragement for the physical and moral development of the youth of the community. William E. Kreger, however, went about his business quietly and earnestly, training his aspiring young men with more traditional purposes in mind. Like a thunderbolt out of the blue sky, on July 17, 1943, came the news to the home town that these boys, none over seventeen years of age, had won the senior heavyweight four-oared National Championship at Philadelphia.

A reflection of past glories engulfed the citizens' imaginations. William Kreger was quick to place the question that if we beat the best in the country with inadequate facilities, what could we do with a real setup? His plan was to incorporate the Wyandotte Boat Club as a non-profit and charitable corporation under the laws of Michigan "for the purpose

of helping youth by providing for their physical, mental and moral well-being." A written ruling from the Federal Government was obtained granting that donations to the club could be deducted from the donor's income tax and that the club itself was exempt from income and capital stock taxes.

The Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation was the first to offer assistance to Mr. Kreger's dream. It donated seven and a half acres of land back of the Wyandotte General Hospital in 1944 to be used for a clubhouse and boat bay. Other industrial and civic organizations began to contribute money and the city government lent financial aid by including \$1500 in the recreational budget for the organization.

A new boat house became a reality in 1946. It contains 125 steel lockers, a steam cabinet, place for showers, and racks holding five four-oared shells and seven eight-oared shells with room for eight more. William E. Kreger had bestirred the memories for days when one heard the blowing of factory whistles and the ringing of bells; visioned again the bonfires and the scenes of conviviality which were rich in the fraternity, the friendship and good will of old Wyandotte.

The thought that the responsibilities of municipal government should embrace the promotion of enterprises which develop the physical, social, and moral character of the city as well as the usual established functions was first suggested by members of the Tuesday Study Club in 1917. They passed a resolution and brought outside speakers to the city in order to create an interest in an organized recreational program. Accomplishments in this direction were made by Mayor Ira Kreger in 1927 when he appointed a four-man committee to formulate and supervise recreational activities. Chris Keehn and George Mobley were appointed to represent city council interest, Frank Armstrong and Superintendent F. W. Frostic to represent the schools. In 1933 the appointments listed a three-man committee. No plans culminated until 1936, when the city appointed Benjamin F. Yack, a native Wyandotter, the first and only full-time Director of Recreation the city has ever had. "Benny," as he is familiarly known, with determination and exceptional foresight laid the plans for a well-rounded recreational program. Labadie and Garfield were the first schools to be opened for recreational activities during the fall, winter, and spring. The first organized event for children was the long hikes between Wyandotte and Grosse Ile. Baseball, hockey, softball, basketball, and archery were some of the earlier sponsored sports. By the second year, "Benny" had added Washington School and Roosevelt High School Gymnasium for more events.



Recreation Commission, 1950

Front row, left to right: Benjamin Yack, Director of Recreation, Charles Thomas, grandson of the first druggist, Anthony Kulik; Back row: Ed DeSana, grandson of Captain John DeSana, Harry McCloy, R. Bryce Smith.

McKinley School became available in 1938 and the Recreation Commission was increased to five members. Early in 1940 a seven-man commission was appointed and St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's parochial schools were offered for recreational programming.

In the beginning there were no available playground lands, and outdoor activities were confined to the two parks—Bishop and Pulaski—and the Michigan Alkali Athletic field.

Bishop Park is the oldest in the city, although provisions for a recreational park were made by the Eureka Iron Company when they platted the village. A commons was set aside between Superior and Chestnut near Fourth Street, but the aldermen of the pioneer period never developed the project. Instead, the various picnic groves were used for park purposes. The area now known as Bishop Park was a marshy stretch of land used by the Eureka Iron and Steel Company as a dumping ground for the industry's cinders. After the fill-in process had hardened the land the spot became known as the "Cinder Bank" and was used for ball games and other sport events.

In 1892 James T. Hurst, wishing to protect his view of the river and to prevent an industry from locating there, purchased the "Cinder Bank," reselling a portion of it to J. H. Bishop. The two men then laid plans to level the land, plant grass seed and open the plot for public park purposes. It was used unofficially for sports, picnics, and Chautauqua lectures until 1916 when agitation was started for the city to purchase the Bishop factory and develop the property for a formal city park. The property was purchased for a nominal sum from Mr. Bishop



Michigan Alkali club house, now the American Legion club house

and in 1917 the Hurst property of one hundred feet was purchased with the understanding that it would always be used for park purposes. The gradual development of the park followed: a pavilion was erected in 1919, comfort station in 1924, a wading pool donated by the Garden Club in 1931, and the Log Cabin for Old Timers, placed on the river bank, in 1942. In 1922 the old Michigan Alkali Clubhouse, now rented to the American Legion, was purchased by the city. Picnic tables, swings, tennis courts have been added over the years.

After the purchase of the Michigan Alkali Club in 1922, the park was dedicated as a memorial to soldiers and sailors who had lost their lives in the war. However, in 1927 the council decided to honor one

of its most illustrious citizens, Jerome Holland Bishop, by renaming the park Bishop.

During the past two or three years, a progressive program of land purchases and exchange of property with the Municipal Service Commission has been carried on, looking toward the future of a waterfront municipal park extending from Vinewood to Oak Streets.

The land, now known as Pulaski Park, was first purchased in 1927 from Charles Snell and Fred Dickman. The tract, at 12th and Walnut, covered about eight acres and was called West Side Park until 1937, when the Polish citizens on the west side petitioned to have the park renamed in honor of Brigadier-General Pulaski who had aided the American cause in the American Revolution. At the same time plans were formulated to erect a monument to General Pulaski. The purchase of the monument was made possible through funds solicited from organizations and citizens of the community. The monument of the standing figure of General Pulaski, who organized the first American Cavalry, was unveiled October 16, 1942. A baseball diamond, tennis courts, wading pool, donated by the Fraternal Order of Police, and other equipment are available for full employment of a recreational program.

Two additional parks have been developing within the past few years: South Park and Memorial Park. South Park, located at 11th and Cherry, was secured through partial gift of land by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Holtzman in 1939 and acquisition of state property. The Veterans of Foreign Wars have taken an interest in the development of the South Park and have built a shelter and comfort station on the condition that the name of the park shall be changed to VFW Park.⁷⁹

Memorial Park will be formally designated when the indoor, outdoor swimming pool, started in 1954, is completed. The area comprises thirty acres, bounded by Pennsylvania Road, Grove, 19th, and 23rd Streets and is adjacent to the pool. Half of the park will have trees, shrubbery, picnic tables, outdoor grills; another section will be designed for athletics such as baseball diamonds, football field, tennis courts and bleachers. Other parts will be available for croquet, archery, horseshoe, quoits, shuffle boards, skating, dancing. In fact, every form of recreational activity will find opportunities here.

By 1942 recreational planning had become so important to the citizens

⁷⁹A precedent to rename city parks for an organization was established several years ago when the playground at Felice and Second street was changed to "Exchange Club Park."

that an ordinance was passed creating a charter provision for a Department of Recreation. A five-man commission with staggering terms was appointed by the council to supervise, recommend and develop recreation to the highest degree in Wyandotte. The appointment of the recreational director was changed from direct appointment by the council to selection and appointment by the Commission with the approval of the council.

After the establishment of the department with a regular city budget, the recreational program began to make strides. A survey was made by an outside expert in 1946 which expedited the acquisition of more playgrounds. The Michigan Alkali Company in 1936 had authorized the use of some of their land at Alkali and Eighth for playground purposes. After land sales and adjustments in 1950, the playground became known as Alkali and Sixth. City-owned victory garden plots were changed over into playgrounds in 1946, at Felice and Second, known as "Exchange Club Park," after the club had taken charge of its development, and at Marshall and Sixth, called "Four Corners." Fraternal Order of Police furnished wading pools for these. An arrangement was made also in 1946 with the Sun Oil Company to use property back of one of their stations at Clinton and Biddle for a small playground program. A playground-park area was started in 1948 from sanitary fill on Goddard Road called Victory Park, but recently some of the property has been exchanged with the Board of Education in order to provide a playground area near a projected new school. Land in the region of Vinewood and 20th was purchased by the city in 1950 for a play field called West Park. A development started at St. John's and Eighth in 1953 is planned for completion in 1955. Charles Block, one of Wyandotte's civic-minded citizens, donated 300 feet of land near 11th and Pine for playground purposes in 1945. This is available for development when the programming has need of that area. Reports of the recreational commission seem to indicate that Wyandotte has adequate outdoor facilities but lacks sufficient locations for indoor functions. To aid the progress in the indoor programming, a trained assistant, Miss Ila McDonald, was appointed in 1953.

Recreation as a municipal responsibility is a reality in Wyandotte, providing benefits designed for both adults and children. The summer program includes baseball, tennis, dances, movies, picnics, horseshoes, hobby shows, crafts, group games, wading pools, supervised playground activities, and other special activities. The winter program offers ice rinks, skating tutelage, oldtime and modern dancing, millinery classes,

ceramics, movies, basketball, group games, volleyball, and many others as the interest demands. The success of Halloween and Fourth of July celebrations is the direct result of Recreational Department supervision.

From a "loudspeaker and one man" in 1936 the department has grown to four full-time employees and sixty part-time. Approximately eighty acres of the city area are developed or available to be developed for recreational programming. With faithful and unselfish devotion the five-man Recreation Commission and its director, "Benny" Yack, continue to look forward to establishing Wyandotte as a leader in the field of municipal recreation.

The citizens' appreciation of the value of recreation in character building and the essentialness of it for civic welfare has been further demonstrated by the number of awards for athletic prowess that have been donated from time to time.

A. B. Milkins, the jeweler and native Wyandotter, has ever been on the alert with trophies. In 1916, he offered a loving cup for the best record in eight shots by members of the Wolverine Gun Club. A softball trophy was given in 1938. It was awarded permanently to a team who had its name etched three times upon the trophy. The Wyandotte Chemical team received the final award. The Milkins Tennis trophy was offered in 1946 with the same arrangement.

Gartner's Hardware granted a trophy in 1914 for riflmanship based on the best score out of two hundred shots in a series of weekly shoots.

The James G. Pinson award for best high school football player was established in 1933. Mr. Pinson had been a star football player in 1898.

In 1939 Eberts Brothers Coal Company offered a bronze award trophy to the best high school baseball player selected by popular vote of the team members.

The Oriole Club set up a travelling football trophy in 1938 to encourage all city teams.

The John L. Sullivan award established by the Old Timers' Baseball Association in 1934 is awarded the best baseball player in the parochial schools based upon scholarship, sportsmanship, and athletic ability.

The Williamson Basketball trophy, awarded by Harold B. Williamson of the Williamson Lumber Company, was available from 1939 to the death of Mr. Williamson in 1953. It was a travelling trophy, passing each year to the exceptional player. The player received a permanent plaque while his name was etched on the trophy which remained in the office of the lumber company.

The Knights of Columbus selected the year 1944 to establish an award to the winning parochial football team. This event has attracted city-wide attention and enthusiasm.

A Memorial Trophy in memory of former city basketball players who lost their lives in the war was established by the Recreation Department in 1947. The trophy remained on display in the city hall with the names etched. No awards have been made since 1951 when interest in basketball lessened.

Another memorial trophy was donated by former Oriole Club teammates this same year, 1947, for Tommy Gierlock, killed in World War II. A baseball award, the conditions were that the winning team would hold the trophy one month and then place it on permanent display at the City Hall.

The year 1947, likewise, dated the Richard T. Kelly trophy, donated by councilman Kelly for kids' boxing shows. The large gold figure of a boxer on a pedestal was awarded yearly to the boy who showed the best ability and displayed clean sportsmanship in the tournament. For lack of adequate hall facilities, this sport was discontinued in 1950.

Hockey received an incentive in 1947 with two awards, one offered by Chelsea Clothes called the Chelsea Cup and the Wyandotte News Herald Intermediate Hockey trophy.

The Exchange Club's award for model airplanes made over a period of several years, since 1930's, has been a definite feature of their boys' program—The Gremlin Club.

One of the earliest and much-sought-after awards was the one given by A. B. Benjamin of the Solvay Process Company for motor boat races. It was donated in 1913.

It has never been a new experience for Wyandotte people to congratulate its youth. On every field of athletic competition in which Wyandotte athletes have participated, each one has demonstrated that in skills, strength, endurance, and sportsmanship he stands beside the best of any people.

CHAPTER 13

ASSOCIATIONS

"Occasions like this ought to bear fruit beneficial to our city. Organization is always the product of results good or bad. Without organization very little can be accomplished for the public good. But when we know that all have a common interest, the betterment of our city as an objective point ... meetings like this should be a good plan to give expression to our opinions on matters pertaining to the welfare of our city, and possibly crystallize public opinion one way or the other."

Mayor James S. McGlaughlin
Annual Smoker Meeting
Business Men's Association
May 29, 1908

NOWHERE else in the world have formally organized societies flourished as they have in the free country of America. Old world commentators and observers have described this joining tendency of the people of the United States as a particular American characteristic. Wherever the stakes are set for the boundary lines of a new town, no matter how small, there gather together two or three into a society. Oftentimes the number of clubs and organizations in a town exceeds the percentage expected from the population figure. Wyandotte with a population approximating 40,000 has between 140 and 160 formally chartered or organized groups. The number of unchartered, casual societies or clubs, bearing such fanciful titles as "Funny Duffers" and "Happy Hours Bunco Club," defies enumeration.

In the formation of the societies or clubs, patterns of interest and purposes are followed, permitting expression of individual differences and preferences in association one with the other, while at the same time working as a group which benefits the community development as a whole.

The groups which may be classified as *community service and social organizations* composed of professional and business people have been:

Associated Food Merchants

Active in 1935-1936. Membership limited to individual owners of a local store that made or sold food. A two-store owner ineligible.



Fathers' Club

Top row, left to right: Frank Eberts, Benny Woodruff, Charles Johnson; Middle row: Walter Eberts, Bert Burns, Fred Genthe; Third row: Stephen Orr, Henry Girardin; George Amiot.

Association of Building Trades of Wyandotte

This organization included carpenters, masons, plumbers, roofers, painters, and heating fixture firms. Active in the 1930's.

Down River Automobile Dealers' Association

Organized in 1934 for the purpose of discussing problems of trade. Dealers were included from Trenton, Ecorse, River Rouge, and Wyandotte.

Down River Bar Association of Wayne County

Organized in 1936 to promote fellowship among the lawyers in the area.

Down River Board of Realtors

First organized under the name Down River Real Estate Board in 1929. At that time it was considered the first of its kind in the city to represent men in any one particular line of business. Operates under the code of ethics of national and state organizations.

Down River Chapter of Credit Unions

Organized January, 1952, to promote the extension of the credit union movement in this area, the general welfare of its own members and that of the State and National organizations.

Down River Professional Nurses' Association

Evolved from informal meeting of Wyandotte Hospital staff nurses in 1940, expanded to include all Down River registered nurses in 1950. Sponsors

nursing scholarships to eligible women throughout the nation. Stimulates and fosters future nurses' clubs throughout the area. Supports the March of Dimes and the United Foundation.

Down River Retail Gas Dealers' Association of Michigan

The chapter was organized February, 1951.

Fire Writers' Club of Wyandotte

Organized in April, 1898, for the purpose of maintaining rates. Inactive.

Forty and Over Club

Organized in 1934. Its purpose was to promote and safeguard the interest of workmen upwards of 40 years of age. Their activities included watching the employment of men and sending resolutions to agencies if discrimination seemed evident. Inactive.

Independent Food Dealers' Association

Inactive. Functioned during 1935-1936.

Insurance Women of Southeastern Wayne County

Organized in 1951 with membership open to any girl active in insurance work.

International Fire Fighters' Association

Local branch of national unit.

Mercantile Association of Michigan

Organized in 1900 to secure more favorable legislation for business men and promotion of business interest in general. Charter members: William Gartner, Joseph Girardin, and Harry Eberts. Inactive.

Merchants and Professional Men's Association

Organized in 1908 to directly benefit the membership educationally, socially, and protectively.

Metropolitan Club and Auxiliary

People connected with Civil Service eligible.

National and State School Secretaries' Association

Local chapter organized first in 1946 to discuss problems of school secretaries, to broaden their understanding of school activities and to help them serve their community better. Reorganized under the name River Park Chapter in 1954.

National Association of Letter Carriers

Organized in 1900. The charter members were: Clarence A. Aubery, Arthur W. Edwards, Watkin Benjamin, Jacob Krieter, Edward Milspaugh, John Reidy, Joseph Smith and Joseph Lohczynski.

National Association of Stationary Engineers

Inactive.

Newcomers' Club

Organized in 1953 to help newcomers to become acquainted in Wyandotte. Meeting place Y. M. C. A.

Parent-Teachers' Association (Local Unit)

Founded December, 1923, to bring to the school the moral support of the home. Organizers included: Mrs. Norman Bowbeer, Mrs. Howard Baxter, Mrs. Stephen Orr, Mr. and Mrs. L. Adams, Miss Ruie Pinney, Mrs. C. W. McColl, Mrs. Roy Patton, Mrs. Henry B. Girardin, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pike. The purposes have been to bring a closer relationship between the teacher and the parent in understanding the needs of the child, through programs on home child training, literature, current topics of civic and community interest, and education. Special equipment needs in the schools have oftentimes been furnished by the group, thereby augmenting activities of the school programs.

Retail Merchants' Protective Association

Organized in 1891 "to single out and black list confirmed dead beats and to force collections." Inactive.

Rotary Club of Wyandotte

Organized in July, 1939, as a chapter of International organization to promote: fellowship among business and professional men, the betterment of communities, high standards in business and professions and the advancement of international understanding by "seeking all that brings people together and avoiding all that separates them." Sponsors activities connected with the crippled handicapped child; activated plans for Junior Achievement program, high school graduation parties; maintains a student loan fund; sponsored an Exchange Student Fellowship and the printing of a book of Wyandotte history. Charter members were: Gerald Angers, Morris Birnbaum, Harris E. Brown, Lee H. Clark, M. Clarence Connors, James Davis, Francis B. Griffith, James L. Hale, Floyd E. Henig, Gerard J. Hungerford, J. Hugh Lewis, George D. Melissarato, Milton S. Moore, Harley E. Smith, J. Homer Steele, Otto H. Welke, L. Earl Johnson, Peter Haubrich.

Soroptimist Club

Organized in 1951 as a chapter of international organization which promotes spirit of service, loyalty to the flag, and to assist in developing the highest conception of patriotism, to encourage meritorious civic movements and to urge cooperation for the betterment of local conditions. Members are professional and executive business women. Sponsors programs and activities to help the mentally retarded child. Contributed to the Faye Sloan Foundation. Charter members include: Mrs. Gertrude Amiot, Babs Sophia Ball, Dr. Margaret Blaznek, Mrs. Irene Drobig, Ivah English, Mrs. Thelma Genthe, Dr. Jean Holdredge, Agnes Hutchinson, Georgia Karabos, Lucille Kraus, Joanna Laido, Edith Liddle, Mrs. Mair McGee (Herman), Mrs. Evelyn Navarre, Mrs. Mary Trites, Lillian Waldorf.

Southern Branch Wayne County Medical Association

Organized October, 1940, as division of the Wayne County Medical Asso-

ciation which aims "to protect man when he needs it, where more often his insurance does not, helps individuals in the profession interested in the menace of malpractice, helps in defense of doctors involved in lawsuits over medical practice."

Southern Branch of Women's Auxiliary to the Wayne County Medical Society

Organized December, 1950, to aid their husbands and the hospitals of the area. Activities have included donation of a check for \$200 for nursing scholarship for girls in this area, presented three scholarship awards to girls in this area, established the Dr. James A. Foote Memorial Fund at Wayne University through the American Medical Education Foundation.

Southern Wayne County Chapter of the National Medical Veterans Society

Organized in 1953 by Drs. Earl Engel, Earl Knaggs, and Robert Doering "to preserve comradeship among servicemen, to assist in making recommendations to Selective Service Leaders, to prevent the depletion of medical care in civilian areas when doctors are summoned to service, to aid in forming policies for care of the sick, injured or wounded in times of national emergencies, to back Civilian Defense programs by forming methods to care for sick and injured, to aid in the formation of policies to insure indigent veterans' families' receiving proper medical care."

Suburban Retail Grocers' Protective Association

Active in 1906-1907.

Venture Club

Organized in 1954 under the sponsorship of the Soroptimists to enlist the interest of women between the ages of 19 and 30 in Soroptimist activities. Planned activities include: raising funds for community projects, visiting hospitals, planning outings for children, sponsoring hobby shows and assisting Soroptimist Club programs. Charter members listed the names: Carol Baunoch, Patricia Dolan, Rita McGrath, Joan Buda, Mary Jane Kalumban, and Veronica Navarre.

Wyandotte Bar Owners' Association

Organized July, 1951.

Wyandotte Business Men's Association

Organized March, 1887, at the Arlington Hotel by the merchants of the city as mutual protection against "dead beats." A similar named group organized in 1907 to advertise prosperity of the city and secure new factories.

Wyandotte Business and Professional Women's Club

Organized October, 1930, with the motto: "A Better Business Woman for a Better Business World." Activities have included: an educational loan fund, sponsorship of the Horizon Campfire Girls Club, Golden Age Club, contributions to the Y.M.C.A. of a refrigerator and a piano, to Percy Jones Hospital a wheelchair, recordings, and yarn; collection of 1500 used

garments for Family Protective Association and secured the educational advantages of bringing outstanding speakers to the city. Charter members were: Minnie Armstrong, Grace Bailey, Marie Bayer, Ruth Brown, Besse Davis, Laura Dolan, Otilie Dorner, Ella Freiberg, Gladys Garrison, Mary George, Ruth George, Mable Graves, Eleanor Hine, Jeanette Horton, Emma Kanehl, Dorothy McCabe, Bess Ann McClintic, Jane McHatton, Gladys Mercer, Ruie Pinney, Catherine Schartz, Mary Sheehan, Mary Stewart, Mina Stewart, Mayme Weston, Katherine Wickstrom, Gretchen Yaeger. Junior Business and Professional Women—active in 1930's.

Wyandotte Exchange Club

Founded January, 1928, under the motto: "Unity for Service," in service to the community, state, and nation. Activities have included: Sponsorship of the Faye Sloan Foundation, a Shoe Fund, High School Talent show, foundation of the youth organization Gremlin Club and the yearly model airplane contest with trophies; contribution of the Exchange Club Playfield at Felice and Second, including equipment and tree planting; contributions to High School graduation parties and the Goodfellows, the furnishings of the Y.M.C.A., uniforms for the High School Band, four-oared shell for the boat club, and an American Flag to the new city hall in 1935. The club stresses citizenship, aviation, and Americanism. Charter members were: Sylvester J. Affholter, Don Ball, Fred Bayer, Carl Belz, Albert P. Block, Charles A. Brethen, G. F. Coon, Milton B. Davis, Leslie A. Doan, C. Lee Edwards, Gus Emmert, Ned C. Field, Gerald F. Gass, C. C. Gaynier, Russell A. Gougeon, Harry L. Graunstadt, Elmer C. Hoffheins, Milton Howe, Alphonse Jager, Chris E. Keehn, Conrad P. Kreger, Alvin G. Labadie, Fred W. Liddle, John T. McWhirter, Jacob J. Scheitz.

Wyandotte Kiwanis Club

Organized in May, 1923, as the first men's service club in the city. Its purpose has been stated "to give primacy to human and spiritual rather than material values and to encourage the living of the Golden Rule; exposing and battling Communism, and support of the U.N." The motto of the club is "WE BUILD." Among its many sponsored activities have been: variety shows, Home Expositions (yearly), Safety Campaigns (series of articles in the *Wyandotte News Herald* paper), "I Voted Today" tags on election day, funds for the two cannons flanking the World War I Boulder Memorial, program of stop signs on streets and drinking fountain, gift of three wheelchairs to Percy Jones Hospital, and special contributions to the welfare of youth and children including a "Kids Day" achieved by peanut sales, vocational guidance clinic in cooperation with schools and the Y.M.C.A., an educational loan fund, and a special aid to college student fund, sponsorship of two Boy Scout troops, Nos. 10, 8, and the maintenance of a Boy Scout cabin on Grosse Ile, planting of trees at Vickory Playground, and the promotion of a dental clinic in the schools:

fund raising for a seeing-eye dog and magazine stand for Frank Merrill, and fostering the extension of park areas, also Christmas basket and welfare programs. It has extended the scope of its work outside Wyandotte by sponsoring a reforestation program in Iosco County. The charter membership list included a total of sixty with James C. Pinson the first president. In 1953 six charter members still remaining in the organization were honored: Clare Allen, Howard Allen, Frank Armstrong, Fred W. Frostic, Dr. Warren E. Hall, and Harold Williamson.

Wyandotte Kiwanian Queens

Auxiliary to the Kiwanis Club founded in 1954 for the purpose of assisting the men in their projects.

Wyandotte Lions Club

Organized as a unit of Lions International in June, 1942. The club's slogan is "Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety"; the motto: "We Serve." Chief activity has been projects in service to the blind. In this regard the club has furnished: leader dogs, a ceiling projector and films sponsored through the public library, provisions for glasses, funds to send one boy to the Lansing School for the Blind, school consultation clinic on blind aids, funds to correct eyesight problems. General projects have been: cigarettes for servicemen, sponsorship of Sea Scoutsman and Junior Class C baseball team, promotion of considerations of pollution of the Detroit River, yearly Safety Patrol Party for all Safety Patrol Boys in the Wyandotte schools. Charter members were: G. C. Barber, Dr. W. J. Cwiek, C. W. Deibel, Dr. Ivan W. Downing, E. L. Henry, C. S. Hoffman, J. J. Jeffry, B. A. Kennedy, W. H. Mayfield, Glenn E. Miller, W. N. Monahan, Earl E. Price, C. E. Schroeder, G. E. Schultz, L. Scott, Earl J. Stieler, Austin Sundman, Tom K. Taylor, Dr. E. F. Townsend, W. T. Webb.

Wyandotte Lions Ladies' Club

Organized in 1953 to assist their husbands in their projects. Activities have included: linens for Penn-Richton Blind Nursery, made cancer pads, furnished volunteer service at the Penn-Richton Nursery School, donated blood on blood drives.

Wyandotte Merchants' Association

Organized in 1933 "to make Wyandotte the shopping center of the Down River District." Community projects have been: contributions to street decoration programs, holiday celebrations; sponsorship of a civic holiday "Wyandotte Day," and the study of parking needs. When first organized used the name Wyandotte Retail Merchants' Association.

Wyandotte Poultrymen's Association

Organized in 1910 "to enable members to learn the best methods of raising poultry." Name changed to Wyandotte Poultry and Pet Stock Association in 1916. Inactive.

Wyandotte Service Club or Inter-Council Service Club

Organized in 1949 "to bring into closer harmony the workings of local organizations." The service club elects a representative member which comprises this unit. Blood Drives and trophies awarded for clubs who maintain a good membership attendance have been two of the general activities.

Cultural and literary associations of the city have attracted men and women who wish to continue their self-development or pursue a hobby or special interest.

Acanthus Club

Organized in 1934 "to promote art appreciation and the practice of fine arts of this section." Name was taken from the Acanthus leaf which decorates Ionic columns of classic Greek architecture. Sponsors yearly art shows; programs consist of lectures and talks on art.

American Association of University Women (Down River Branch)

Organized in April, 1932, by a group of interested university women eligible for membership. The names of this chartering group have never been recorded. "The A.A.U.W. is concerned with the study and improvement or education on all levels; with encouraging wider opportunities and responsibilities for women; with furthering international understanding and cooperation; with study and action on current social and civic problems; with individual intellectual growth. The A.A.U.W. carries out its purpose through study groups; membership on local committees; through international Study Grants to foreign women scholars; and Fellowship Awards to American women for graduate work." Local activities have been: encouragement of the Acanthus Club's annual art exhibit through the inspiration of Arts and Crafts exhibits of the group in 1935; sponsorship of a public meeting each year with an outstanding speaker on a topic of current interest, in cooperation with the Tuesday Study Club. Out of these experiences grew the Civic Lecture Series. Promotion of an annual tea held for the senior girls of the local high schools to acquaint them with the possibilities and rewards of a college education. Cooperation with various civic groups to help achieve these projects: Red Cross, U.S.O., Civil Defense, etc.; and the granting of arts scholarship award annually (since 1947) to an outstanding art or music student in the High School graduating class.

Bay View Reading Club

Organized in 1894 for study of literary topics. Inactive.

Bennett Study Club

Founded in 1931 "to promote cultural interest." The name being a composite of the names of the first president and first vice-president, Mrs.

J. (Mynette) Birch and Mrs. Simeon (Beatrice) Dean. The motto chosen was "The mind grows by what it feeds on." Club disbanded in 1954.

Browning Club

Organized in the late 1910's to study Browning. Inactive.

Child Study Club (Senior)

Founded in 1927. Purpose is better parenthood. The club is active in projects furthering the welfare of children in the city. Its charter members were: Mrs. Carroll Collins, first president; Mrs. George Genthe, vice-president; Mrs. Lewis Hooper, secretary; Mrs. Harry Burrell, Mrs. Roy Moynihan, Mrs. Earl Johnson, Mrs. H. Nelthorpe, Mrs. E. Nellis, Mrs. A. H. Cameron, Mrs. Ralph Johnson, Mrs. A. H. Yount, and Mrs. J. Homer Steele.

Child Study Club (Junior)

Founded March 25, 1935, to correlate with the Senior Child Study Club, whose membership roll of 50 had been filled. The purpose has been: "a desire for parent education; a better understanding of their children; and an interest in their family, home and community life." "Thru the years the club has had many local and outside speakers, many member panels, book reports, etc., bringing to the members beneficial ideas on all subjects related to the family, home and community." The first members were: Mrs. E. N. Hines, Mrs. C. M. Allen, Mrs. E. R. Church, Mrs. C. E. Cross, Mrs. K. E. Forsyth, Mrs. L. M. McCandless, Mrs. L. S. McClenahan, Mrs. M. S. Moore, Mrs. L. D. Murphy, Mrs. G. J. Murray, Mrs. S. T. Richards, Mrs. G. H. Royer, Mrs. J. E. Meeks, and Mrs. Joe McKnight.

The Civic Players

Organized September 16, 1932. Inactive.

Dale Carnegie Club

Organized April 1949, for the purpose of continuing public speaking practice and provide speakers for various occasions. Inactive.

Delphian Club

Organized 1919 for the "purpose symbolized by their pin, bearing the word 'Delta,' suggesting the 'Open Door' to culture and learning." Community contributions have been: presentation of a large reproduction of Theodore Roosevelt to the Wyandotte High School, "A Distinguished Member of the Humane Society" to Washington School, "Boyhood of Lincoln" to McKinley and Garfield Schools, and "St. Gauden's Lincoln" to Lincoln Junior High School. The first officers were: Mrs. George Long, president; Mrs. Charles Noggle, vice-president; Mrs. F. H. Wager, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Harry Coe, Mrs. John Youd, and Mrs. August Loeffler, press and publicity committee.

Down River Historical Society

Originated January 16, 1949, under the sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce. Objectives were: to foster interest in history of Down River

Area, to encourage historical study and research, to collect, preserve, and compile in usable form historical materials of interest and value to these cities. Walter L. Eberts, temporary Chairman. Inactive.

Friends in Council

Literary society of the 1880's composed entirely of women. Meetings were held weekly at the homes of members. Reported to be the first literary club in Wyandotte, forerunner of the Tuesday Study Club. Inactive.

High School Lyceum

Organized in 1881 for this purpose: "to acquire the art of writing and delivery; to acquire knowledge of parliamentary usage." Members were composed of students of the Wyandotte High School and honorary members—teachers and members of the school board. Programs consisted of singing, orations, discussions, declamations, essays, and news of the week. Inactive.

Independent Dramatic and Pleasure Club

Organized with sixty members, November, 1905. Inactive.

Iota Kappa

Wyandotte chapter of Pi Omicron National Sorority. Purpose was educational. Inactive.

Junior Choral Society

Organized 1936 by Mrs. Robert Ashley. Five charter members. Purpose: to bridge gap between high school glee clubs and the Women's Choral Society and to arouse musical talent and interest in the community. Inactive.

Kee-Wee Club

Organized in 1928 by eleven charter members under the leadership of Mary Martin. The name was selected meaning ground-flier, one with hopes of flying or literally one with higher aspirations. Discontinued in 1947.

Michigan State College Alumni Club

Organized September, 1953. Group included Mike Honsowetz, Mrs. Fred Bufe, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Blazok, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Rice, M. J. Amo, Joanne P. Schleicher, and Dorothy Benjamin.

Mozart Musical Club

Active in the early 1900's.

P.E.O. Sisterhood

Wyandotte chapter of a national organization founded January, 1936, with 12 charter members. Society has been actively interested "in seeking the best in every town and city" by engaging in projects connected with education, art, culture, and public welfare.

Pi Omicron National Sorority

Founded in 1929. Wyandotte group consisted of 22 members whose purpose was adult education. Courses in various subjects constitute activity. Inactive.



Tuesday Study Club Program

Players' Guild

Organized 1934. Inactive.

Review Club

Organized by Mrs. Henry Roehrig. Active in late 1920's.

Teachers' Reading Circle

Founded in 1887 as branch of the Michigan State Reading Circle. The purpose was "to give teachers opportunity to pursue a systematic course of professional and literary reading." Discussions by the group were held in the high school weekly, conveying topics on history, literature, and pedagogy. Inactive.

Tuesday Study Club

Organized in 1899 for the purpose "of intellectual and social culture and a united effort towards the attainment of higher ideals in thought and life." The scope of its work has embraced many civic endeavors of an educational, philanthropic, and social need. Contributions have been made to the Community Fund, Hospital Day, Michigan Crippled Children, Maternal Health League, Needlework Guild, Red Cross, and Cancer Control. The general activities have included: petitions for better street railway service, better sidewalks, removal of bill boards, longer time period on traffic lights and the addition of other safety warnings and signs, and development of Bishop

Park; promotion of a school and visiting nurse; the organization of the P.T.A., a recreational survey to determine the needs of the city, and the formation of a Girls' Club in cooperation with the Family Protective Association; contributions to the furnishings of the City Hall club rooms, linen chest (1927) for families of small incomes, and the gift of the reproduction of the signing of the Declaration of Independence to the Carnegie Library in 1917 and Stewart's "Portrait of George Washington" in 1932; and establishment of scholarships for college and vocational training. Charter members were: Mrs. L. C. Aubury, Mrs. Charles Babcock, Miss Florence Babcock, Mrs. Jerome H. Bishop, Miss Della Bishop, Mrs. T. Hawley Christian, Miss Eva Christian, Mrs. Everett N. Clark, Miss Emma Clark, Mrs. Lu Nettleton Everett, Mrs. Edward Ford, Mrs. John Battice Ford, Jr., Miss Edna Sage Ford, Miss Eva Hurst, Miss Effie Hurst, Mrs. J. T. Husted, Mrs. F. A. Kirby, Mrs. Peter Lacy, Mrs. William H. Lacy, Mrs. Annie R. Leggett, Mrs. George Pope MacNichol, Mrs. Sylvester Pray, Miss Emily Ward Pray, Mrs. Henry P. Rafter, Mrs. Alfred Steele, Mrs. John S. Van Alstyne, Mrs. Frederick E. Van Alstyne, Mrs. Frank E. Welch, Mrs. Milton R. Wood.

The University of Michigan Club (Wyandotte Branch)

Active membership open to anyone who has attended the university. Associate membership for those who are interested in the school. Active in the 1940's.

Wyandotte Amateur Dramatic Club

Active in late 1880's and early 1890's.

Wyandotte Art Club

"Membership started with 12 persons of both sexes in 1890." Medium: charcoal drawings, oil painting, and all branches of art. All drawing from nature. Arnold Trahot instructor.

Wyandotte Association of Women's Clubs

Presidents of the various women's clubs meet as a board to consider the service work of all the clubs as a unit.

Wyandotte Camera Club

Active in the late 1930's

Wyandotte Chautauqua Association

Organized 1916 for the purpose of pledging tickets for lectures. Inactive.

Wyandotte Dramatic Club

Organized May, 1892. Presented benefit plays for community projects and causes. Inactive.

Wyandotte Choral Society

Organized January, 1932, as a combination of the Lincoln Mothers' Glee Club and an informal group under the direction of Mrs. Mildred Wotring, music teacher at Roosevelt High School. Promotes self-expression through music and sponsors two yearly concerts, one at Christmas time and another

in the spring with guest artists. Charter members were: Margaret Baxter Domal, Maude Bickley, Elmas Boyajan, Irene Gardner, Isabel Jones, Carrie Liddle, Mary Przybylski, Virginia Tarrant, and Mary Thomson.

Wyandotte Community Theater

Organized 1953 by Stephen Quick. Purpose: to offer opportunity for amateur dramatic work.

Wyandotte Garden Club

Organized in January, 1924, at the home of Mrs. F. A. Kirby for the purpose: to help beautify the city and to stimulate a love of flowers and gardens among its members. First named Down River Garden Club, re-named Gateway Garden Club and in 1930 adopted the name Wyandotte Garden Club. Activities have included: planting of Norway Maples in Bishop Park, evergreen at Biddle and Superior which became the first illuminated community Christmas tree in 1924, perennial and annual beds of flowers in Bishop Park, elm tree in Bishop Park as a memorial to George Washington on the bi-centenary, 350 tulip bulbs in a garden in front of Wyandotte General Hospital; filled urns in front of monuments on Superior Boulevard for several years; sponsored yearly Flower Shows; sends flowers to hospital wards; sponsored a series of lectures at Garfield school on Gardening; grants conservation scholarships to local school teachers; and has contributed to general community welfare by donations for children's shoes and Girls' Club. Charter members were: Mrs. F. A. Kirby, Walter Lambert, A. W. Brighton, O. S. Goff, R. B. Burrell, R. Daniels, J. H. Bishop, Mrs. John Reid (Trenton), Mrs. J. Dancy (Trenton), and Misses Eva and Effie Hurst.

Wyandotte Harmony Club

Organized March, 1932, at home of Gar Preston on Emmons Boulevard. Open to men 16 years and older. Non-sectarian and non-partisan. Inactive.

Wyandotte Orpheus Club

On January 11, 1933, Mrs. Simon of the Wyandotte Choral Society sent out invitations to men interested in singing to meet at St. John's church in Wyandotte to explore the enjoyment of singing and to begin the creation of an organization. Ideals and aims: to foster musical appreciation; to enlarge musical understanding among the members and the reaches of their combined influence; to study the art of song; to increase the enjoyment of singing; to secure the benefits of their common endeavor. Sponsors two yearly concerts with guest artists. First officers were: Edward Hulbert, Director; Frank Ramsey, President; Henry Malloche, Vice-President; Cyril Readhead, Secretary-Treasurer; Marlin Crum, Librarian.

Fraternal and benevolent societies have fostered the expression of brotherly love and promoted the moral and financial well being of their memberships.

Alkali Lodge, No. 1512, Modern Brotherhood of America
Active in 1900's.

American Yeomen of the World
Organized circa 1904. Also active during 1910-1920.

Ancient Order of United Workmen—Iron City Lodge
Organized in Wyandotte in 1880. Meeting place over Loeffler's store.
Beneficiary. Inactive.

Degree of Honor—Maple Leaf Lodge, No. 62
Organized in Wyandotte April 29, 1895. Auxiliary of Ancient Order of United Workmen. Beneficiary. Charter members were Mrs. E. Trites, Mrs. B. Rowley, Mrs. George Crassweller, Mrs. I. Guilfoil, Miss Emily Crassweller, Mrs. H. F. Thon, Mrs. A. Loeffler, Miss Mary Clark, Mrs. J. Strong, Mrs. J. Clark.

Diamond Keystone Club
Organized in 1946 for Pennsylvania Salt veteran employees who receive pins and certificates after 25 years or more of service.

Elks, Benevolent & Protective Order of
Wyandotte branch organized December, 1932. Contributions have included baskets of food to poor families. Temporary officers were: Dr. R. M. Ashley, Chairman; Chief Jaeger of Ecorse, Secretary; George F. Giasson, Judge Herbert P. Schendel, and Victor Haner, membership committee.

Eureka Association of the Patrons of Industry
Active in 1890's.

Fidelity Life Association
Active in 1930's. Composed of two branches—Friendship Lodge and Olive Branch Lodge.

Foresters of America
Organized at Eilbert's Hall August, 1919. Inactive.

Fraternal Order of Eagles
Organized in January, 1934, as a chapter of a National organization. The purpose is "fraternization and group benefits." Extra activities have included: influencing the inception of state Widows' and Mothers' pensions, Workmen's compensation law. Old age pensions, stabilization of wages; distribution of radios to shut-ins, sponsorship of an unemployment program through odd-job repair projects; and have provided recreational outings for children. Charter members were: Gerald Gass, Don Marshall, Arthur Desmairas, Arthur Feldman, Henry LeBeau, Frank Jefferies, Dr. Charles Ornstein, Gus Anselm, Thomas Toomey, Dr. Robert M. Ashley, Fred Genthe, and D. J. Edinger.

Independent Order of Foresters, Court Wissahickon, No. 3785
Organized with ten charter members August 26, 1892. Inactive.

Independent Order of Oddfellows—I.O.O.F. (Eber Ward chapter No. 172 and Indian Encampment No. 153)

Organized 1871 for the purpose: "based upon eternal principles of Friendship, Love, and Faith." Command of Order is "to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphans." Activities have included: loan of hospital beds to those confined by illness; sponsorship of United Nations pilgrimages by High School students (selection made through essay contest). Charter members were: George Bessey, Henry Bessey, Fred Hibbard, Michael Weatherwax, Fletcher Duntley, Alfred Plumb, Isaac Sides and Foster. It has been considered as having the largest membership of any similar organization in the city. The Order built the Oddfellows Temple on Chestnut Street in 1910, on the former location of the Old Brown School (now the Masonic Temple). Wyandotte Fellowship Club and Wyandotte Oddfellows Club are affiliates of this lodge.

Marian Baxter Rebekah Lodge (Women's Auxiliary) No. 236

Organized in 1895 with charter members Mrs. L. D. Bailey, Mrs. William Roberts, Mrs. John M. Parker, Mrs. Hugh Roberts and Mrs. F. L. Norton.

Rebekah Lodge No. 460

Organized in 1912 with charter members Sarah Roberts, Sarah Trites, Elizabeth Usher, Hattie Rice, Martha Thon, Bertha Davis, Anna Perkins, Lila Rice, Emma Ocobock, Sarah Knapp, Elida Emmert, Cecelia Roberts, Margaret Cameron, Mildred Thiede.

Knights and Ladies of Honor, Wyandotte Lodge, No. 2133

Organized March, 1900. Meeting place, Kaul's Hall. Charter members were: Nancy Jayne Joyce, Hadily Wilson, Cecelia Rose Isabell, W. H. Deamud, Robert Millen, Nellie Willson, Ernest A. Joyce, Bro. Wadsworth, Libbie LaDukie, Leon LaDukie.

Knights of the Maccabees

Organized September 1891. Meeting place, Kaul's Hall. Purpose: beneficiary. Among the charter members were: J. M. Kreiser, William Walther, C. Alfred Steele, R. K. Newell Fairchild, Eli N. Drouillard, J. L. Secord, Dr. N. T. Langlois, Austin Ballard, Scott Weaver, Frank David, Louis Manor, Fred Kroeger.

L.O.T.M. (Lady Maccabees)

Organized November, 1892.

Knights of Pythias, Washington Lodge No. 213

Organized February 22, 1901. From the fact the charter was granted on Washington's birthday, the lodge received its designation. The lodge is named Pythias for the famous Greek member of "Damon and Pythias." Charter members included: Dr. T. J. Langlois, George D. Jones, John Rause, Charles Begeman, Michael Wilhelm, J. F. Clark, M. G. Bowbeer, Samuel Johnson, Marshall Turner, William Huston, F. J. Bovee, Jacob

Johnson, J. S. Rause, R. L. Johnson, Allen Barr, and A. C. Myers.

Pythian Sisters, Martha Washington Temple (Auxiliary)

Loyal Order of Moose, Wyandotte Lodge No. 1387

Instituted at Dearborn September 10, 1945, with 65 charter members.

Women of the Moose, Wyandotte Chapter 203

Organized 1947

Masonic Orders

Wyandotte Masonic Lodge, F. & A.M. No. 170, received its charter January 11, 1866. Charter members were: J. S. Van Alstyne, J. H. Bishop, Peter Lacy, L. C. Aukry, Oscar Brinton, James Haren, Edward Christian, John Higginbottom, Albert Farnsworth, Robert Leighton, Henry Eichman, George Henry and Robert Briggs. Order includes:

Acacia Lodge No. 2 A.A.S.R.

Hope Lodge No. 38 Star of Bethlehem

Order of Eastern Star

Organized as branch of F. & A.M. in 1908. Charter members were: Hattie Travis, Sarah C. Johnson, George W. Perry, Clara Pearson, Tillie Neuendorf, Florence Perry, Theresa McCleary, Ella Wilson, Anna England, Jeannette Johnson, Lila Conwell, Theresa Baxter, Florence Sanders, Nellie Long, Belle Baisley, Lydia Raubolt, Fred Raubolt, Kate Kreger.

Order of DeMolay

Organized circa 1930.

Royal Arch Masons

Organized 1896

White Shrine of Jerusalem No. 30

Organized December, 1920.

Down River Shrine Club

Organized 1944 by members of White Shrine for the purpose of aiding crippled children.

Wyandotte Masonic Temple Association

Organized 1916 for the purpose of raising funds for building a Masonic Temple.

Modern Woodmen of America, Wyandotte Camp No. 213

Active in 1910's.

Mystic Workers of the World, Wyandotte Lodge, No. 735

Active in 1900's.

National Union, Biddle Council, No. 574

Organized 1892. Charter members included: J. M. Barber, John Weatherwax, Joseph Marx, Jacob Anspach, M. M. Morgenthau, Dr. T. J. Langlois, Charles Alward, Alvin Boettner, E. C. Thiede, Charles Wilk, Jr., A. Pierson, Delo Boettner, William Brown, Abraham Pierson, E. H. Doyle. Inactive.

Order of Red Men, Wyandotte Tribe, No. 18

Organized 1915. Benefit society. Inactive.

Royal Arcanum

Active in the 1880's-1890's. Benevolent society.

Royal Neighbors of America

Organized 1917. Inactive.

United Friends of Michigan

Organized 1896. Receiver appointed for society July, 1898. A fraternal organization. Charter members included: W. C. Lambert, George Hardesty, Anna Adolph, Frank Marx, Minnie Myers, Laura Boehm, Louis Pernot, Ernestine Mehlhose, Mathias Eilburg, August Dickman, Rudolph Lehmann, Ernest Myers, Caroline Janneck.

United Modern Mohawks

Organized in February, 1904. Inactive.

United Order of the Golden Cross

Organized July, 1899. Fraternal. Charter members were: Louis Boehm, Laura Boehm, Louis Vroman, George Jacklin, B. J. Bishop, Daniel LaBeau, Mrs. E. J. Harding, Mrs. B. J. Bishop, E. J. Harding, Jas. Birdsall, Messrs. Malcolm Rouse, Ash. Van Meter, Bradbrook, Jacob Fuhrman, Miss Lillian Boehm, H. F. Sykes, Miss Bertha Nassut, Charles DeWitt, Jas. Deeley, Dr. J. S. McGlaughlin.

Woodmen of the World and Woodmen Circle, Biddle Grove No. 14

Organized circa 1890's. Erected monuments to deceased members buried in Oakwood and Mount Carmel cemeteries. Two women's auxiliaries formed, No. 14 and a Germanic Group.

Supreme Forest Woodmen, Wyandotte Grove No. 94

Women's auxiliary organized by means of a consolidation of Biddle Grove No. 14 and the Germanic group in 1935. Junior Lodge No. 5 organized at this time also. Purpose: an insurance society for women and girls only; also a fraternal benefit society providing activities for adults, junior activities for girls to age 16, and sorority life in Tau Phi Lambda for young women from 16-30.

Military organizations have sought to continue in civilian life the preservation and the promotion of ideals which their memberships have fought for on the battlefields.

American Legion (Edward C. Headman Post)

Organized in 1919 in memory of Lieutenant Edward C. Headman, who was killed in France September 1, 1918. Purpose: to perpetuate the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; "to uphold and defend the constitution of the U. S. of America; to maintain law and order, to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community state and nation." Specific projects

which the local unit has sponsored besides the usual Poppy Drive have been: "Toys for Tots," parade for children abroad, drive to relieve German Children in 1924, relief for widows and orphans of servicemen, tape recordings program "Home Town, U. S. A." of family voices for servicemen abroad, "get out to vote" campaigns, child welfare programs of circus shows, contributions to Goodfellows, old clothes collections; minstrel shows and pageant "Know Your America;" Iron lung contribution in 1938; sponsorship of a Boy Scout troop, sale of American flags, promotion of a dinner honoring School Superintendents of the area in 1952. First Commander was William Gatzke, and H. E. Bauer, the first secretary.

American Legion Auxiliary

Organized October 26, 1920, with the purpose of aiding the Legion to carry out its purposes and peace time programs. Its programs consist of community services, child welfare and hospital work. Contributions to community services have been: Salvation Army, cancer control, and flood relief, March of Dimes, Faye Sloan Foundation, blood for Korean servicemen, financial and medical aid to ex-servicemen passing through Wyandotte, food, clothing, and household furnishings, coal, and money for rent and utilities to needy families; provides obstetrical cases for Visiting Nurses; finds work for unemployed; visits and contributes baskets to Eloise inmates; organizes classes in citizenship; provides cars for Armistice Day parades and flags for flagbearers; provides transportation to and from Memorial Day services; provides wreaths, plants, and flowers for veterans' graves. Contributions to child welfare: money for the Crippled Children's Society, to Boy Scouts for summer outings, to the Goodfellows for dolls, to the hospital for a therapy tank, to German children's relief, to the Family Protective Association for camping expenses, to Herbert McKenny Cottage for building a third cottage at billet; it sends supplies of money, clothing, books, pencils, provides glasses, house furnishings, fruits, candy, cake, and groceries to billet. It provides dental care, and milk for children of needy veterans; provides transportation for children in need of medical care. It supplied material for "Health House" at billet and Garfield School; it founded a home for a boy mistreated by parents; supplied 500 leaflets on flag study for school children. Hospital service has included: supplies of fruit, nuts, cookies, cake, flowers, cigarettes, magazines, bathrobes, socks, pajamas and pajama material, playing cards, greeting cards, stamps, radio tubes; clothes, holiday baskets, candy, fruit, and medical aid for veterans in Eloise, Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter baskets to hospitalized veterans; helps them select gifts for their families and wrap and mail them; contributed to the establishment of a hospital fund called, "Edith Lowell Hobart Fund." Besides, flags to the McCann School and the Girl Scouts have been donated. Charter members were: Elsie C. Doninger, Susan Genthe, May Quinn Lilien-

thal, Flossie E. Wilson, Ethel Gatzke, Barriere W. Winn, Helen LeSage, Osenia Hooke, Rose M. McFadden, Sophie Gatzke, and Maud Holzappel.

American Women's Voluntary Services

Organized in 1942 to aid civilian activities in the community. Inactive.

Amvets (William A. Gallagher Post No. 99)

Organized July, 1946, in memory of Private First Class William Gallagher, who was killed during the Makin Island raid August, 1942. Purpose: to develop mutual confidence and understanding within the nation and between America and other nations; to serve America in peace and war; to assure American ideals for which their countrymen have died, etc. Membership generally composed of veterans of World War II. Sponsored activities have been: White Clover sales, contribution of ice cream and drinks to area youngsters after Fourth of July parade, 1951; Christmas gifts to Korean servicemen, 1952. Square dancing is promoted as a recreational activity in the community. Charter members: George Kish, John Evans, Joseph Musico, Warren Heleman, William Werboy, Alfred Flotfelty, Albert Spence, James Engle, Stuart Cole, Robert, Charles and George Cramer.

Amvets Auxiliary

Organized in 1948. Sponsored activities have been veteran hospital work and contributions to the Down River Consultation Service, one of which was a completely furnished doll house to be used in work with underprivileged children.

Blue Star Mothers, Chapter 6

Organized April, 1942. Purpose: "to aid in the rehabilitation of the returning veterans," "to be of service to the dependents of servicemen," and "to maintain true allegiance to our United States Government."

Blue Star Mothers, Chapter 94

Membership composed of mothers of Polish descent.

Catholic War Veterans, St. Patrick Post No. 549

Organized February, 1946, with officers William A. Tillman, commander; Frank Schoemer, adjutant; Robert Kane, treasurer; and Reverend C. A. Robideau, Chaplain. Inactive.

Coast Guard League

Organized November, 1945. Purpose: to preserve traditions and promote the interest of the Coast Guards and to continue the mutual association of those who have served together in the Coast Guard.

Dads of Foreign Service Veterans

Organized January, 1950, for fathers of sons or daughters who had seen foreign service in a war participated in by the United States. Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Daughters of Union Veterans (Elizabeth Aubrey Tent No. 40)

Organized April 24, 1929. Post named in honor of a sister of A. W. Brindle, who lost his life in the Civil War. Purpose: "to keep alive respect for those

forefathers who fought and died in the name of our country." Membership is composed of direct descendants of Union Veterans. The organization has donated flags to Garfield, McKinley and Jefferson Schools, the Y.M.C.A. and Bacon Memorial Public Library, also several Scout troops. In 1931, a picture of Abraham Lincoln was presented to St. Patrick's school in recognition of a pageant the school wrote in connection with good citizenship project. Charter members were Mesdames Blanche Spencer, Ada Lochard, Laura Edwards, Mary Clark, Alwilda Debout, Gladys Mercer, Elizabeth Slagle, Elizabeth Blomshield, June Slagle, Hazel Edwards, Florence Addy, and Jessie McTaggart.

Disabled Veterans of America

Organized August, 1945. Purpose: "to advance the interest and the work for the betterment of all wounded, injured and disabled veterans; to cooperate with all federal and private agencies devoted to the cause of improving and advancing the conditions, health and interest of wounded, injured or disabled veterans." Charter members included: Roscoe Colwell, Stanley Stull, Joseph Mauer, Daniel P. Dourns, Lee Phillips and others.

Disabled Veterans Auxiliary

Organized sometime between 1945 and 1947. Sponsored a Down River Baby Show in 1951.

Gold Star Mothers

Organized October 11, 1948, for mothers of sons killed in war action. Active in Memorial Services and patriotic endeavor. Charter members: Flora Schultz, Catherine Welberg, Norma Torange, Stella Skrypiec, Violet Jeblonski, Laura Herrmann, Lillian Raubault, Flora Geist, Florence McInerney, Ella Walker Japke, Anna Jane Ramey, Helen Bartlett, Anna Repp, Elizabeth Zieg, Mary Gierlock, Angeline Gallagher, Helen Beattie, May Ringo, Marcella Speer, Mary Assenmacher, Gertrude Amo, Margaret McCauly, Jessie McMillin, Anna Berens, Clara Gresser.

Grand Army of the Republic (A. W. Brindle Post) No. 270

Organized, 1884, disbanded, 1886. A new post with the same name and number re-organized 1891. Changed to No. 413 August, 1891. The death of Spencer Doremus in 1937 closed the chapter.

Jewish War Veterans, Down River Post

Organized April, 1940. Originally organized to combat anti-semitism, after the Civil War. Later Spanish-American Veterans were organized. Present organization consolidates all three war veterans' groups. General principles are: "to protect their rights of freedom of speech, press, and religion in the United States"; "to sell United States to their sons and daughters and not allow them to be guided wrongly by American factions opposed to Americanism." Among the charter members were: Harry Paskowitz, Morris Fox, Max Baker, Dan Cohen, Jack Tarnoff, Herman

Marsh, Elliott Stern, S. H. Wiseman, Morris Gotch, Sam Fogel, Isaac Glass, Tony Liebowitz, and Elliott Stern.

Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary

Sponsored projects: service to anti-aircraft battalion in area; gave scholarship for nursery school training of a blind child of a veteran.

Marine Corps League, Down River Detachment

Organized 1941, for men who are honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps or who are now Marines. Sponsored projects: Orchid Day for veteran work; contributions to cancer fund; "Toys for Tots" program; and contributed a Michigan State flag to the First Division Marines in Korea.

Marine Corps Auxiliary

Organized January, 1942. Purpose: patriotic, social, fraternal, and educational whose further purpose is to bond together in comradeship the members of the Auxiliary, the Marine Corps, and the Marine Corps League. Activities have been: regular visits to a V. A. Hospital with a check for some needed article, such as wheel chair attachments, television, painting or a model car, boat making kits, for the Veterans rehabilitation and to give idle hands something to do. Yearly large projects in which all veterans' groups can participate: the Christmas party, summer Carnival, and off station trips for the patients, such as taking 30 veterans to the baseball game, and giving them dinner after the game at the clubhouse; sponsorship of Girl Scout Troop No. 417, and Brownie Troop No. 387 and presenting them with their flags; Thanksgiving baskets to needy families, sending children's clothing to an orphanage in Korea and helping others in the "Toys for Tots" campaign and the March of Dimes; participating for Wyandotte in the July 4th parade, and open house after, at the clubhouse. Charter members included: Viola Smith, Gladys Scomberge, Beatrice Hood, Mercedes Lent, Gladys Kaul, Mabel Baird, Susan Koviak, Harriet Navarre, Margaret LaBeau, Florence LaBoe, and Mrs. Joseph Peterson.

Marine Fathers' Club

Organized April, 1953, for all fathers of Marines in the area.

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Organized March, 1941, for men who hold the medal of the Purple Heart. Activities have included: cigarettes to servicemen, wheel chairs to Veterans hospital, Dearborn; flowers to veterans in hospitals at Christmas time, entertaining veterans at Skating Follies, contributing magazines and books and three-speed records to a ward in Eloise; supported Goodfellow dance; erected the Purple Heart Monument, the only one in the United States; adopted the Fighting Ninth Infantry Company; sponsored contests on Americanism.

Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary

Complements the activities of the men's group, with special gift boxes to Wayne County Hospital.

Mothers of the United States of America (Wyandotte Branch)

Organized 1941. Purpose: "to bring to the attention of all women any proposed or existing legislation that would lead this country into armed conflict in present war." Activities: distribution of literature, advocating adequate defense but nonintervention in foreign wars. Charter members included: Mrs. Charles Jonas, Mrs. John C. Cahalan, Mrs. J. McLinden, Mrs. Arnold Decker, Mrs. W. D. LeBar, Mrs. Stewart Raubolt, Mrs. Conant.

National Guard

Organized January, 1947.

Navy League

Organized March, 1945. Purpose: "preservation of the navy after the war, to prevent scrapping of our ships as was done following the first World War." Anthony D'Anna temporary chairman for chartering group.

Polish Legion of American Veterans (Frederick Alger Post No. 7)

Organized June 30, 1934. Purpose: "better relationship and understanding and aid between persons of Polish descent and of all other citizens of the community and throughout the whole United States. Post named in honor of Colonel Frederick M. Alger, former Ambassador to, and friend of, the people of the Republic of Poland. Activities: baseball, skating teams, entertainment for children at the various and many parks and recreation areas in Wyandotte and vicinity, scholarship fund (yearly) to Parochial schools; namely, St. Stanislaus, St. Helen's and Mt. Carmel, all of Wyandotte, the Boy Scouts fund, all civic enterprises, hospital aid, including the Veterans' Hospital at Dearborn, Michigan, with visits and gifts of useful articles for ALL veteran patients therein, regardless of race, color, religion, or creed; and with donations for all charitable and non-profit organizations for the succor and betterment of our less fortunate fellow American patriots.

Polish Army Veterans, Post No. 95

Organized December, 1933. Purpose: "the upkeep of the Polish Army Veterans Home at Utica, Michigan, as well as supplying material, physical and moral aid to invalid veterans of the Polish Army. We are also pledged to cooperate with the City Officials, as well as civic, veteran and other organizations in making this city of ours a good place to live." Sponsored activities: visiting of the ill and invalids at the county and State Hospitals as a regular function of our members. Donations are made to such fund drives as the March of Dimes, The Detroit Tuberculosis Fund, Torch Drive, Wyandotte Goodfellows, Polish Goodfellows, Lions (aid to the blind) and others. Participation in all civic celebrations and parades, such as the annual Fourth of July Parade, Memorial Day Parade, Armistice

Day Parade, Pulaski Day Celebrations, and others where we might aid in furthering civic enterprises.

Polish Army Veterans Auxiliary, Post No. 79

Complements men's group.

Red Arrow Organization

Founded May, 1951. Originally a National Guard Unit, federated July 19, 1940. Members, local men who were a part of Company B, 107 Med. Reg., 42nd Infantry.

Reserve Officers Association

Organized 1947 with Henry Lojewski, Tim W. Heilala, and W. McNabb, first officers.

Servicemen's Wives Club

Organized May, 1945, under the sponsorship of the Y. M. C. A. Inactive.

Sons of Veterans

Founded 1892, and christened the J. T. Hurst Camp in honor of Wyandotte's well-known lumberman and ex-soldier. Membership open to sons of Civil War veterans. Inactive.

Veterans Council

Organized August, 1941, in order to co-ordinate the work of veterans' groups in Wyandotte. Representatives from Veteran groups compose the membership.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Founded February, 1924, for men "with honorable discharges from the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps, and who have served in the wars and campaigns of the United States beyond the continental limits of the United States. Activities have included: fiddlers' contest to raise funds for Hubbard Therapy tank; contributions to the Community Chest Fund, and for rehabilitation work with veterans, to Polio drives; Iron Lung to Fire Department; sponsorship of essay contest on subjects of Americanism, Boy Scout troop, rifle club, and a softball team.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

Organized October 23, 1931. "Down River Post No. 1136," in 1935 it was changed to the "City of Wyandotte Post No. 1136." Activities have included: Ladies' Drum and Bugle Corps; sponsorship of the Essay Contest on Americanism at the Roosevelt High School for a number of years, later Essay Contests sponsored through the Wayne County Council; furnishing of flags for all 20 class rooms in the new James Madison School, also given to the Woodruff School in October of 1953, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies and Cub troops, schools and churches. Sponsorship of a Girl Scout troop No. 115 and also a Brownie troop No. 1200; work on all civic affairs: Blood Bank, Red Cross, Cancer, Polio, and donation of jackets, money and many other needs for the rifle club and softball team. Charter members were: Emma Schrenk, Mary

Perigo, Rose Kreger, Alice Priskorn, Margaret Bower, Nellie Degtiarick, Helen Markowicz, Pauline Reaume, Josephine Roskowski, Emily Bednarek, Helen Solo, Elsie Clark, Anna Kiesel, Florence Priskorn, Alice Casper, Elizabeth Sample, Catherine Ester, Mary Hall, Virginia Thomas, Mary Shumaker, Isabella Dorginski, Mary Thompson, Mary Iden, Sylvia Moss, Helen Spigoda, Cassie Lokuta, Clara Willet.

Women's Relief Corps (Theodore A. Penland No. 274)

Organized March 8, 1951, and post named after the last Commander of the Grand Army. Mrs. Mamie Bockhouse, first president. Thirty-three charter members were initiated. Activities have included the gift of a flag to the Salvation Army and Cub Scout Den 2, Pack No. 21.

Wyandotte Alger Guards

Founded 1889, and named in honor of General Alger. Membership numbered 20-30. Inactive.

Nationality groups, under the fraternalism of their own language, have endeavored to help one another in following the American way of life.

Ancient Order of Hibernians

Organized 1880. Beneficiary society. Membership of Irish nationality.

Ladies' Auxiliary (Ancient Order of Hibernians)

Organized September, 1900. Among charter members were: Miss Rose McGlaughlin, Miss Mayme Melody, Miss Lizzie Ganley, Miss Margaret McQuade, Miss Marie Spillane, Miss Mary Smith, Mrs. Mary Clark, and Miss Agnes McSorley.

Arbeiter Society

Organized 1872. Purpose: to foster fraternalism among German nationality. Membership not limited to Germans, however. Sponsored civic holiday called "German Day" and social sports and musical activities, later provided insurance benefits. Disbanded in 1938. Among charter members: John Loechner, Louis Stulzer, Adolph Schultz, Andrew Storch, August Petre, Hugh Mehlhose, Theodore Megges, Adolph Berens, Carl Mullno, and John Solinger.

Ladies Arbeiter Society

Organized 1899. Auxiliary of men's Arbeiter Society.

Arbeiter Maennerchor

Musical group of Arbeiter Society. Active in 1911's.

Citizens Club of Polish Descent

Active in 1934. Associates of club included: Joseph Kalash, Joseph Malwiek-jezyk, Mrs. Anthonina Kobuszewski, Adam Tyszko, John Kwiakowski, Peter Kalin, John Gumola, Stanley Zalewski, and Walter Szymanski.

Daughters of British Empire Florence Nightingale Chapter

Organized in the 1950's. Members must be daughters or granddaughters of a native of England.

Friends of Irish Freedom

Organized at St. Patrick's school May 18, 1919. 100 charter members.

German Beneficial Union, Franz Boettner No. 616

Organized October 29, 1923.

German Hungarian Family Unterstuetzung Verein

Organized 1909. A social and beneficiary organization embracing membership on the west side.

League of Polish Catholic Women

Organized June, 1920. Charter members: Frances Kaszprzyk, Rose Rakocy, Julia Targonski, Mary Pawlaczyk.

Liederkrantz Society

Active in 1887. Purpose: social activities.

Lime Kiln Club

A social organization of men of German origin. Active in the early 1880's.

Louis Kossuth Hungarian Aid Society, Wyandotte Branch

Organized 1912. Celebrated 25th Anniversary in 1937.

Polish-American Citizens' Club

Organized at Stanislaus Kostka Hall October 16, 1921. Purpose: to maintain and preserve true spirit of fraternity and patriotism, administer full help and assistance to those obtaining citizenship. Charter members: Ignatius Witkowski, Stanislaus Wnuk, Stanislaus Polonczyk.

Polish-American Citizens Women's Club

Organized 1938. First President, Mrs. Sophie Sutkowski.

Polish National Alliance and Ladies' Auxiliary

Active in 1927.

Polish Political Club

Organized 1911. Charter members: I. F. Wyjczyk, Stanislaus Wachowiak, Joseph Lapczynski, Victor Hausz, F. R. Libyk, and Valentine Wiczelewski.

Polish Rosary Society

Active in 1888. A women's organization which participated in forming Mount Carmel Church.

Polish Falcons of America

Organized 1942. Purpose: to promote physical and spiritual welfare of members and to train youth in physical culture.

Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, Branch 818

Organized February 21, 1902. Fraternal insurance society.

Servian Sick Benefit Society.

Active circa 1911.

St. Stanislaus Kostka (Polish Men's Society)

Organized 1888, circa. A local brotherhood organization at St. Patrick's; later participated in building Mount Carmel Church.

White Eagle Club

Organized 1935. Polish social group.

Wyandotte Council of Clubs (Polish)

Organized March 1, 1933. Purpose: to organize a more central working body in interest of civic activities of Wyandotte. Charter members: I. T. Lapczynski, John Szymanski, Stan F. Lapczynski, Joseph Kalosh, and B. Mioduszewski.

Young Voters Club (Polish)

Organized 1939. Charter members included: Mrs. Przyblski, Helen Lawrence, Wanda Sarnocki, Agnes Swiecki, Sophie Taurance, Stephanie Krzesniak, Frances Kaczynski, Sue Kitcham, Mary Przyblski, Louise Lojewski, Evelyn Narmala Deiutars.

Political organizations have furthered better citizenship by developing an interest in political party activities and purposes.

Congressman J. Lesinski Club

Active in 1950's for the purpose of furthering election of J. Lesinski.

Down River Equal Suffrage Association

"Organized in 1915 with 30 members. Mrs. N. Bowbeer, president."

Down River Republican Club

Organized 1949. Political action organization club.

Flambeau Marching Club

Organized in 1907 by group of Republicans to march at political rallies.

Iron City Republican Club

Organized in 1936. Membership composed of representatives from various industrial firms.

League of Women Voters.

Organized 1924. Among the charter members were: Mesdames W. C. Lambert, Henry Roehrig, J. H. Bishop, F. E. Van Alstyne, and Charles Crosby.

Republican Women's Club

Organized 1932. Political action organization. Sponsors lectures on government and politics.

Volunteers for Stevenson

Organized 1952.

Wyandotte Citizens' League

Organized during the late 1930's to effect nonpartisan information on civic affairs.

Wyandotte Civic Club

Organized January, 1936. Among charter members were: Jack Kreger, Harold Draheim, Roger Hammes, Ed Sharlow, Otto Bufo.

Wyandotte Democrat Association

Organized 1934.

Wyandotte Republican Club

Organized 1896 and again in September, 1932, to put on an aggressive campaign for elections. Among charter members were: Dr. R. M. Ashley, H. L. Blomshield, A. B. Conrad, Jas. C. Headman, Case Baisley, Frank H. Eberts, Bud Lerew, Stephen Orr, J. M. Griffith, C. Les Edwards, Dr. J. G. Knapp, Conrad P. Kreger, R. J. Lynch, A. F. Nerlinger, Dr. A. S. Paster-nacki, and Dr. W. C. Lambert.

Wyandotte Young Democrats Club

Organized November, 1935. Charter members included: Dick Kelly, June Bondie, Arthur Sawden, Anna Cregie, Madeline Ososkie, Joseph Cahalan, and Clarence Schloff.

Young Men's Republican Club

Organized 1938.

Young Republican Club

Organized in 1934.

Recreational clubs have brought fun and happiness for a fuller citizens' life.

Aviation Club

Active in 1920's to encourage high school boys' interest in aviation. Activities included making model airplanes and taking part in contests.

Central Athletic Club

Active during the late 1900's.

Chief Wyandotte Muzzle Loader Club

Organized 1951. Purpose: "to bring together people who speak the same language—flint locks and muskets, powder horns and primers." Activities included holding monthly shoots on a range specially constructed for old rifles and guns, and holding special exhibits.

Down River Civil Air Patrol

Organized December, 1948. Purpose: "to further the interest of civil aviation through youth."

Down River Conservation Club

Organized 1932. Purpose: reforestation and beautification of the Huron River, also ridding both the Huron and Detroit Rivers of pollution. Provisions for suitable nesting and feeding grounds for the game birds and animals, and to fill in marsh in the north end of the city, since it is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Down River Flying Club

Organized 1945. Purpose: to provide opportunity to fly with private and commercial rated members on local and cross country trips.

Down River Hikers

Branch of Detroit News Hikers active during 1940's.

Down River Sportswomen's Club

Organized in 1950's.

Engine House Club

Active in 1880-1890's and early 1910-1920's. Group of men who gathered at Fire Station, corner of Biddle and Elm to chat, debate and play cards.

Replaced by Log Cabin Old Timers' group.

Eureka Bowling Club

Organized in 1909. Inactive.

Forest Athletic Club

Organized 1942. Social and athletic.

Golden Age

Organized by Business and Professional Women's Club, 1953, to provide social activities for retired and older citizens.

Iron City Athletic Club

Active in the 1900's. Sponsored boxing matches. Inactive.

Iron City Ball Club

Organized 1887 to provide teams for organized games. Inactive.

Iron City Gun Club

Organized April 28, 1888. Held shooting matches, and sponsored dancing and masquerade parties. Inactive.

Mercury Athletic Club

Organized by young men of Wyandotte's West Side in 1949. Organized an amateur ball team.

Michigan Alkali Club

Organized in 1897. Purpose: to foster good fellowship in the field of athletics among employees of the Michigan Alkali and J. B. Ford Company. A club house, the present American Legion Clubhouse built in 1900. A new club was built in 1920 at the corner of Mulberry and Biddle, and later renamed Wyandotte Chemicals Club. Activities have included: the encouragement and development of skilled players in baseball, softball, bowling, and the sponsorship of early rowing teams. Captain John B. Ford initiated the club with a donation of \$5,000.

Oak Club

Organized in late 1940's by West Siders whose primary purpose is to raise funds for and to promote athletics on the West Side. All politicians are barred from membership.

Old Timers' Club (Baseball Association)

Survivors of Sullivan's "Old Timers" (baseball players) organized to form a permanent club, May 2, 1934, at residence of John Sullivan. Largest alumni group in the city. Among the charter members were: Walter Perry, Frank Loranger, John Murphy, John L. Sullivan, Arthur Yops, Arthur Gabriel, Charles Boettner, George Johnson, Fred Eichbauer, Frank Murphy, Arthur Long, Harry McCloy, Harry Mehlhose, Jim Pinson.

Old Timers' Club

Pioneer group who have met in the Log Cabin in the Bishop Park since 1942 to play cards and discuss topics of the day.

Oriole Trophy Club

Organized April, 1941. Purpose: to provide more sports and social recreation of a wholesome nature for young people of the area during war time. Activities included: formation of baseball, bowling, and football teams.

Ski Club (Roosevelt High School)

Organized in 1950's. High School students, under planned curriculum, journey to Boyne City for skiing each year.

Sons of Rest

Organized 1888 as the first men's social club in the city. Activities included: Euchre playing and "heated but friendly discussions on every topic under the sun." Charter members included: John S. Van Alstyne, John C. Cahalan, John Desmond, E. N. Clark, Dr. T. J. Langlois, H. P. Rafter, Charles Clark, John Wayman, Charles T. Sill, James T. Hurst, Joseph Girardin, J. H. Bishop, R. B. Burrell, John Bittorf, and E. N. Baisley. Inactive.

Sons of Veterans Junior Rifle Club

Sponsored by Post 1136 (VFW). Boys between 14 and 18 eligible for membership.

Sportsman's Dog Training Club (Down River Branch)

25 active members. All-breed organization. Members strive to obtain ratings for their animals.

Victory Athletic Club

Organized 1899. Inactive.

Wayne County Sportsman's Club

Organized December, 1945. Purpose: to promote and safeguard conservation, to work with and for farmers and other rural residents, to generally espouse wild life propagation and conservation; to encourage expansion of public recreation facilities, to eliminate pollution of streams and lakes, to create game covers, and to carry on a constant program of objectives for better conservation of wildlife, woods, and waters.

Wayne County Sportsman's Club (Junior Division)

Organized February, 1947. Open to boys from 12 to 18 years of age.

West Side Athletic Club

Active in late 1900's. Sponsored boxing matches.

Wolverine Gun Club

Organized 1914. Re-organized in 1941.

Wyandotte Amateur Athletic Club

One organized in 1891. Re-organization of Wyandotte Club and Boat Club in 1896. Re-organized in 1906 as Wyandotte Amateur Athletic Club. Inactive.

Wyandotte Athletic Association

Organized: 1891. Purpose: "to develop muscle." Among the forty charter members were: J. H. Bishop, M. R. Wood, M. L. Palmer, Arthur B. Clark, Alfred Steele, Fred Johnson, William Campbell, Frank Marx, J. D. Haven, Henry Roehrig, William Ocobock, and Edward Nellis. Inactive.

Wyandotte Athletic Club

Organized 1894 as the Wyandotte Club; disbanded in 1896 and re-organized as the Wyandotte Athletic Club. Donated a \$400 shell to the city in 1896 (four-oared). Sports interest; namely, boating. Inactive.

Wyandotte Baseball Club

Formerly Iron City Baseball Club. Inactive.

Wyandotte Bicycle Club

Organized May, 1899. Among charter members were: Joseph Hoersch, William Marcotte, Edward Belisle, William Horne, Misses Mayme Melody, Lettie Spillane, and Olive Drouillard. Inactive.

Wyandotte Boat Club

Organized at the home of John McKnight in 1875. Club house was located at foot of Vinewood. Charter members were: John McKnight, A. Griffore, N. Hoersch, N. Griffore, Theodore Busha, F. Wolcott, J. McCloy, Daniel Campau, E. Thiede, M. Ganley, A. Raubolt, J. Ashman, J. Crane, and A. Trites. Purpose: to foster and develop rowing teams. Original club became inactive and a new club was reorganized in 1923 with headquarters at the American Legion Clubhouse. New clubhouse built at foot of Mulberry in 1951. Club renamed Wyandotte Yacht Club.

Wyandotte Camera Club

Organized July, 1938. Among charter members were: George F. Hacker, Robert Irvine, Thomas Hawk, and Antoine Labadie. Inactive.

Wyandotte Camping Club

Organized in 1880's for group camping on Hickory Island. Inactive.

Wyandotte Chemicals Camera Club

Active in the late 1940's. Discontinued 1950.

Wyandotte Driving Park Association

Active in early 1890's. Purpose: to promote and stage horse races on the "forty acres" race track. Inactive.

Wyandotte Fishing & Shooting Club

Organized 1891. Purpose: "existence sufficiently explained in title." Charter members numbered 34. Sponsored dancing parties and social entertainment also.

Wyandotte Glider Club

Active in 1930's. Members entered gliding meets.

Wyandotte Gremlins Model Airplane Club

Organized in 1940's by the Wyandotte Exchange Club to interest boys in aviation. Projects are the making of model planes and holding contests. Clubhouse and landing field dedicated to the late Joseph Havican.

Wyandotte Gun Club

Active in 1890's.

Wyandotte Homing Pigeon Club

Organized July, 1935. Purpose: to raise racing pigeons. Turned over more than 100 pigeons to the United States Army November, 1942; won Shim-mel trophy, 1941. Among charter members' names: Herman Kline, Charles Conley, Albert Rischert, Colin McDougall, Earl LaBeau.

Wyandotte Motor Boat Club

Organized in 1912 to sponsor outings within the membership of those who owned power craft. First officers included: Edward Bryan, Leroy Adair, and George Moore.

Wyandotte Rifle Club

Organized in 1907 with 30 members. Among the charter members were: Dr. T. J. Langlois, James G. Murray, Dr. N. G. Bowbeer, Dr. W. H. Honor, and Sam L. Vreeland. Another Club by the same name organized in 1938, with a range at 21st and Pennsylvania.

Wyandotte Shooting Club

Active in the 1890's.

Wyandotte Skate Club

Inaugurated by Recreation Department in 1941. Prepares members for Gold Cup championship.

Wyandotte Stamp Club

Active in the 1940's.

Wyandotte Sportsmen's Club

Organized 1953. First president, Strauss Gantz.

Wyandotte Tennis Club

Organized under auspices of Recreation Department in 1945. Purpose: to train and develop tennis players for competition matches in the state and United States.

Wyandotte Wheelmen

Active in 1890's. Sponsored trips and festive wheel shows.

Wyandotte Yacht and Sailing Club

Organized in early 1880's. Members' boats entered in races every summer winning championship pennants.

Wyandotte Yacht Club

The first Wyandotte Yacht Club was organized in 1898 to provide its members with facilities for fishing, cruising, camping out, etc. Among the charter members were: Dr. Walter Lambert, J. G. Bishop, A. L. Hurst, D. N. Perry, and E. C. Bryan. 1931 a Wyandotte Yacht Club organized with Ray B. Soncrant chosen as Commodore. Headquarters was the American Legion clubhouse. In 1951 the Wyandotte Boat Club was re-named Wyandotte Yacht Club.

Religious societies have presented a united front in promoting and intensifying the Christian Way of life.

Call to United Christian Youth Action

Organized October, 1952. Purpose: to awaken young people to a realization of what it means to be a Christian, the importance of putting their Christian faith to work, and extending it throughout the world. Membership limited to two youths from each Protestant church.

Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, Branch 36

Organized 1886. Insurance group for men.

Christian Science Monitor Youth Forum

Organized May, 1948. Purpose: social and discussion of current topics from "The Christian Science Monitor."

Daughters of Isabella

Organized April 12, 1924. Purpose: to unite within the bonds of a fraternal society all Catholic women.

Down River Jewish Community.

Organized November, 1932. Re-organized 1952.

Down River League of Catholic Women

Organized in Wyandotte in 1920 with Mrs. J. S. McGlaughlin as its first president. Disintegrated a few years later and re-organized in 1935 by Mrs. John C. Cahalan, Jr. Purpose: social and volunteer work. Activities have included: blood donations, mittens, old clothing, bedding to Europe, numerable visits to sick, aged and lonely, mailing of get-well cards and letters, altar linens to church, magazines, gift to Public Library, aid to Girl Scouts and U.S.O. training program; donations to Community Chest, cancer, Christmas seals, Needlework Guild, Red Cross, Goodfellows, and milk fund.

Gideon, Down River Camp

Organized 1947. Presented 200 Bibles and 1,000 servicemen's testaments to the Veterans' Hospital in Dearborn.

Junior League of Catholic Women

Organized May 9, 1941. Charter members: Mrs. C. McGlaughlin, Mrs. J. LaBerge, Mrs. K. Montie, Mrs. J. Gartner, Mrs. E. Kane, Mrs. William Benjamin, Mrs. P. Schramm, Mrs. C. L. Campbell Burkett, Mrs. J. Cassidy, Mrs. Theo Hoersch, Mrs. Harriet Loselle LaRue, Edna Walters, Mrs. Neil Amiot, Mrs. J. S. McGlaughlin, Mary Elizabeth Frazier, Mrs. N. D. McGlaughlin, Mrs. M. Ritchie, and Mrs. J. Sossett.

Knights of Columbus No. 1802

Organized in 1915 with 58 charter members. Activities have included: aid to Boysville, Christmas Crib, Washington Birthday celebration, 1917.

Columbian Squires, Junior Branch of Knights of Columbus

Organized in 1929.

Fourth Degree

Organized 1928. Drill team brings honors to Wyandotte.

Among the charter members were: W. Leo Cahalan, W. Edward Ganley, C. H. Marr, H. S. Amiot, Edward L. Gabriel, John Reidy, William Haubrich, Albert Larabell, Joseph J. Hoersch, Joseph Smith, John Kaul, Edward A. George, Dr. A. C. Drouillard, Richard C. Montie.

Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association

Organized in Wyandotte May 20, 1896, with 39 members. Among the charter members were: Mrs. Mary Melody, Miss Florence Girardin, Mrs. Mary Mont, Miss Ella Keveney, Miss Anna Hoersch, Mrs. Rose Gates, Mrs. Sarah Liddle, Mrs. Catherine Cramer, Miss Susan Kelley, Mrs. Catherine Busha, Miss Ellen Maynes, Miss Emma Roe.

St. Boniface Society

Organized in 1868 at St. Patrick's Church. Later the society helped to found St. Joseph's Roman Catholic.

United Churchwomen of the Down River Area

Organized 1929. Purpose: "the movement of Protestant-Evangelical church women which makes possible for them to accomplish together what they can never do separately. It is the channel through which shared concerns and the power of these church women may become more effective on local, state and national levels." Programs include: Worship, participation in the World Day of Prayer the first Friday in Lent, the entire offering on which day is given for the four great interdenominational missionary projects; Fellowship, May Fellowship Day, the first Friday in May, the offering from which is divided equally between the local, state and United Councils of Church Women; Study; World Community Day the first Friday in November. Interest is centered in the United Nations and international peace and good-will. The offering and gifts are for overseas relief through Church World Service, for the program of the United Council of Church Women for international justice and the support of Miss Mabel Head, our official observer at the United Nations; Action, the local Council may also engage in a project for better motion pictures in the community; in interdenominational missionary institutes; cooperation with other groups in Migrant work in community or state; in Marriage and Christian Family Life conferences and better labor and race relations; also the study of the United Nations and support of world peace. Each of these community interests is under the leadership of a chairman of the Michigan Council of Church Women.

Wyandotte Association of Ministers

Organized to promote cooperative enterprises among the Protestant churches.

Wyandotte Catholic Youth Club

Organized April, 1949. Purpose: to give Catholic men and women, out

of school, an opportunity to unite in recreational, social, and religious activities. Name changed in 1951 to Wyandotte Catholic Century Club. Among the charter members were: Jas. McGrath, Al Kowalski, Mary O'Brien, Eileen Rolling.

Social welfare societies have sought to provide protective measures and educational interest which will develop and improve the physical and mental well being of each member of civic society.

American Cancer Society

Organized 1949. Purpose: educational and project work.

Band of Hope

Children's temperance society organized in 1880 or 1881. Inactive.

Boys' Club

Established in 1930 through the cooperation of the following agencies: P.T.A., Exchange and Kiwanis Clubs, Michigan Alkali Club, St. John's Evangelical Church, Modern Woodmen of America, Mesdames Conrad Otto, Carrie M. Smith, Florence O'Brien, Miss Mina Stewart, and Peter Haubrich. Purpose: to effect recreation of the desirable kind for boys of the neighborhood.

Boy Scouts

Organized in Wyandotte in 1911. Motto: "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the scout law. To help other people at all times. To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." Troops are sponsored by churches and civic associations.

Camp Fire Girls

Organized in 1912. The law of the organization is: "Worship God, seek beauty, give service, pursue knowledge, be trustworthy, hold on to health, glorify work, be happy."

Child Conservation League of America

Organized March 27, 1922. Charter members included: Mrs. Bertha Martin, Mrs. Charles Ross, Mrs. Edward Haas, Mrs. R. J. Nixon, Mrs. R. J. Currie, Mrs. William Schultz.

Down River Consultation Service

First organized as Wyandotte Welfare Society in 1917. Renamed Family Protective Association in 1927. In 1954, named Down River Consultation Service. Purpose: a non-profit community chest family agency that helps families and individuals in working out the personal everyday problems of living.

Down River Optimist Club

Organized July, 1947. Purpose: dedication to principles of Optimism. Sponsored activities: entertainment of boys at Shrine Circus; donation of money for playground equipment in Detroit; work in Detroit area with

Wayne County Juvenile Court in rehabilitation efforts among delinquent youths. Discontinued May, 1950. Ecorse Rotary chartered by former members.

Down River Social Workers and Nurses Club

Organized October, 1939. Purpose: to improve co-ordination of existing social services in Down River community.

Down River United Community Services

Organized as Down River Council of Social Agencies in 1938. Renamed United Community Services in 1951. Purpose: the over-all planning, budgeting, and fund raising body of the Community Chest Funds in the Down River Area.

Down River Visiting Lay Nurse Committee

Organized in the 1940's to help the Visiting Nurses Association in their work, fund raising, recruitment, etc.

Father Matthew Temperance Society

"Flourished in the early 1860's." Both sexes belonged to the society. "The male members sometimes lost interest and fell off the wagon, the ladies remained loyal and true."

Girl Scouts

Organized in area in 1915. Motto: Be prepared.

Girls' Club

Established in 1930 under the auspices of the Family Protective Association. Tuesday Study Club initiated the program. Members eligible: out of High School and working girls. Activities included: recreational programs, sewing, skating, hiking, handicraft, and story telling for children.

Goodfellows

Inaugurated in Wyandotte in middle of 1920's. This organization is active in seeing that no destitute family is without provisions for the "inner man"; on Christmas in addition it sees that something is given in the way of a toy or article of wearing apparel. Funds are raised through dramatic presentations and by the sale of newspapers on the city streets one day a year around the Christmas season. Cooperation with civic organizations and with the Down River Consultation Service is maintained. These latter groups furnish names of the needy. The Goodfellows have a formal organization set-up with officers and Board of Directors.

International Friendship Club of Roosevelt High School

Organized 1936. Every High School girl eligible. Purpose: to promote friendship between countries. Sponsored activities include: yearly International Festival, packages to foreign countries, pen-pal letters to foreign countries. Charter members were: Mrs. Helen DeJack, Mrs. Joseph Oetting Bahans, Mrs. Frances Fulton Amrose, Mrs. Rosemary Lowler Swartz, Mrs. Ruth Mean Lattimore, Violet Anders and John Seltsam.

Loyal Temperance Legion

Organized in 1907 by Bina Kellie, Ralph Harrington, Ralph Smith, Viola Stieler, and Joseph Cashmore.

Needlework Guild

Organized in Wyandotte June, 1927. Purpose: "Giving of oneself with one gift." Activities: the contribution of two new garments of identical size and material for the annual in-gathering. Garments remain in Wyandotte to be distributed to Wyandotte needy. Disbanded in 1946.

Older Boys Association

Active during the 1910's. Purpose: to promote fellowship among the young men of the Down River towns and teach the principles of good citizenship.

Red Cross, Wyandotte Branch

Organized in the home of Mrs. Jerome Holland Bishop March 6, 1916. Re-organized in 1944. Aids in war and defense efforts, and conducts First Aid classes, besides following the general programs of the State and National Red Cross.

The "San" Variety Group

Active in early 1940's. Organization of musicians, readers, and singers which presented programs for patients at Eastlawn Sanitarium, Northville.

Visiting Nurses Association

Established in area in 1927. Program: offers part-time nursing care to patients ill and confined to their homes; teaches mother and child care also.

Women's Christian Temperance Union

Organized January 16, 1890. In 1889 organization numbered fifty women. Met at homes of members for literary and musical programs.

Y. M. C. A.

Young Men's Christian Association was established in Wyandotte January 6, 1941. W. F. Newell appointed executive secretary. The local "Y" is unique in the respect that it has a family membership plan whereby the entire family can enjoy the "Y" as a unit. The activities begin with boys and girls who enjoy such things as craft classes, movies, clubs, ping pong, checkers, television broadcasting and informal recreation. For adults there is a wide variety of activities including service clubs for men and women, religious discussion groups, public speaking classes, home fellowship groups, hiking club, travel club, millinery and sewing classes, badminton, contract bridge group, hooked rug class and men's basketball. Additional groups for young people and adults are organized according to interest.

Young Men's Club

Organized 1909-1910. Meeting place, corner of Oak and Third Streets. Founder: Reverend Dystant. Gymnasium and reading room program.

Youth Incorporated

Founded 1936 for "all out of school youth who may be interested in working out a program for social, recreational, and educational outlets." Inactive.

PART IV

THE WORLD HAS BEEN OUR COMMUNITY

WE HAVE not lived to ourselves alone. Our environment has been fertile enough to provide gifts for the betterment of our national government as well as the world about us.

CHAPTER 14

MILITARY HISTORY

"It is a strange thing, a thing difficult to understand, and yet a truth that our nationality, and our freedom and union under the nationality, our place in strength and leadership among the nations of the world, have come to us through the death, the sacrifice, the endless suffering of that thing which we call War."

Edward C. Bryan
Armistice Address
Maple Hall
November 11, 1925

French and Indian

THE fickle finger of fate has recorded many glowing and absorbing chapters in the romantic and blood soaked past of the great Northwest—of Michigan in general and of Detroit in particular. Wyandotte, like the mysterious river which skirts her boundaries, has been no stranger to wars, violence and bloodshed. Situated in the center of a battlefield in the struggle for the new world between England and France for the mastery of the Great Lakes Region and of the Port of Detroit, Wyandotte territory wrote an integral chapter in the decisive history of the French and Indian wars.

The primeval forests and the sphinxlike river had become the natural habitat for the Wyandott Indians, whose village proper extended from Oak Street to Eureka Avenue. During the French and Indian wars, the Wyandotts watched from the seclusion and protection of these dense forests the daring but unsuccessful attempt of Pontiac and a band of fanatical warriors to capture the British schooner "Gladwin," enroute to the aid of the British garrison at Detroit (September 4, 1763). This fight took place in the narrow channel between Little Turkey and Big Turkey Islands, on the Canadian side of the river. These islands were so called by the early French because of the abundance of turkeys. Big Turkey is now known as Fighting Island.

Pontiac had made an earlier futile attempt (April 27-May 7, 1763) to drive the hated British from Detroit. On April 27, 1763, this Ottawa

chief, whose ancestral home was on Peché Island, just above present Walkerville, in Lake St. Clair, called a meeting of representatives from the various tribes in the Detroit area. This council was held on the banks of the Ecorse River, near the present site of Edward's Bridge. Plans for a wily and far reaching conspiracy were laid at this gathering. It was Pontiac's undying hatred of the British, as implacable as was Tecumseh's utter disdain for the Americans, that catapulted upon the pages of history that well conceived bit of strategy known to every school boy down through the present day as "Pontiac's Conspiracy." Pontiac was certain that this plan would succeed, and well it might have but for Cupid. "The best laid plans of mice and men," we are told, often go awry, and in this case love conceivably changed the course of history as it has so often done. Like Helen of Troy, tradition relates that an Indian maiden, Catherine by name, was smitten on the British Major Gladwin, and as a consequence revealed the entire plot to the enemy. There are many other tales about how and why the conspiracy failed, each one claiming to be authoritative, but this bit of folklore seems to have been the one most readily accepted. The true revelation of the plot has never been determined.

War of 1812

During the War of 1812, Wyandotte again became the scene of two historic clashes between the British and her Indian allies under chief Tecumseh, and the Americans. After the Indians had been defeated at Tippecanoe, Tecumseh, disillusioned and vowing vengeance, went to Fort Malden (now Amherstburg) and joined the British forces. On June 18, 1812, Congress had declared war on England, and Tecumseh was already calling an assembly of down river Indians at Fort Malden paralleling and perhaps emulating that abortive scheme of Pontiac some forty-nine years previous. All the Wyandotts who lived below Detroit attended or sent representatives. These comprised three villages between the Huron River over which the army had to build a bridge at Brownstown, and the present city of Wyandotte, presided over by chiefs Split Log, Lamé Hand and Walk-in-the-Water. The latter was the most famous and was the first man to have a steamboat named after him—the first steamboat that plied the Detroit River and Lake Erie in 1818. Governor Meigs of Ohio had sent a relief column of volunteers from Chillicothe under command of Captain Brush for the relief of the American garrison at Detroit. General Hull sent Major Thomas B. Van Horne with about 200 men to conduct him to the fort. On August 6, 1812, his men were ambushed at the little

village of Brownstown, one mile from Gibraltar and about five miles from Monguagon, the village of the Wyandott Indians. This memorable event is preserved for posterity by two cannons commemorating the ambush. They are located in a postage stamp park, the smallest national park in the entire country, in Wayne County between Trenton and Rockwood. Historians have been prone to use the terminology "Battle of Brownstown" and "Battle of Monguagon" interchangeably and at times even synonymously. The fact remains, however, that history has actually recorded two separate and distinct battles. After Van Horne's defeat in which he lost 17 men, General Hull dispatched Colonel Miller to the River Raisin to escort the Ohio volunteers and their convoy of supplies and provisions to Detroit. He met the British and Tecumseh's Indians at the village of Monguagon (Wyandotte, Michigan, today), a village surrounded by almost impassable forests. This battle began at a spot at what is now Chestnut Street and Biddle Avenue and continued almost to Trenton because of the dense woods and the inevitable methods pursued by the Indians in warfare. Monguagon Creek was then known as Stone Quarry Creek.

The British and the Indians were defeated and fled to Fort Malden. Tecumseh so distinguished himself by his courage and bravery that history records he was given the rank of a brigadier general in the British army. With the end of the War of 1812, the Wyandotts who had been allies of Pontiac and whose village saw another daring chief's exploits in yet another war, became the Vanishing Americans, and exercised very little further influence in the Wyandotte region, going to the Government Reservation at Flat Rock by the terms of the Treaty of 1818. Thus has Wyandotte figured in the early development of the Great Lakes Region and the history of Detroit. To those skeptics who don't hold by "book larnin'," archeological evidence can be produced as late as the year 1904 in their own back yard. The *Wyandotte Herald* for April 24, 1904, contains the following bit of Americana: "Two skeletons were dug up in the front yard of Alderman Liddle's residence on Pine Street, last Friday, by the Alderman's son, Willie. Dr. A. W. Brighton, who examined the bones, decided they were those of white men. The fact that a brass button was found near the skeletons, bearing the word 'London,' leads to the belief that the remains were those of British soldiers who were slain during the War of 1812."

Civil War

Scarcely had the last oratorical echoes of General Cass, Eber Ward and other recruiters died away from Campus Martius and the area surrounding the Biddle House in Detroit, than the young men of Wyandotte rushed to enlist in the Grand Army of the Republic. The town's reaction toward the War between the States could have been pinpointed from all the diverse elements that had gone into the birth, growth, and development of Wyandotte. There were those who felt the South had a just cause; and there were others whose idea of democracy was epitomized by the firm belief that the union must be preserved.

The Government called for 75,000 volunteers for an enlistment period of 90 days to put down the rebellion, for the consensus was that no longer time was needed to bring the South to her knees. Just as "Keep the Home Fires Burning" and "There's a Long, Long Trail a Winding" became an integral part of World War I, they merely fell into their proper niche in history's military alcove alongside "John Brown's Body," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again" which were used to incite recruits for the Civil War.

Wyandotte supplied volunteers to every branch of the service and never failed in filling its quota, an enviable tradition which has been maintained through the present uneasy truce in Korea. Down through the years she has proven the truth of the axiom "to fight in a just cause and for our country's freedom is the best office of the best men." Wyandotte has had her share of the best men and they were numbered among those who captured Jefferson Davis and fought on the bloody fields of Gettysburg.

While Wyandotters served in the First, Fourth, Tenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Twenty-Fourth Infantry Regiments and the First and Ninth Cavalry commanded by Colonels Brodhurst and David respectively, both of Grosse Ile, and the Fourth and Fifth Cavalry, it was in the ranks of the Twenty-Fourth Michigan Infantry that the majority enlisted: Duncan Alexander, Asa W. Brindle, Lewis A. Baldwin, Francis Baysley, Henry Brown, Benjamin Conwell, Frederick DeLosh, John R. Donaldson, Adam Ehring, Daniel Flannery, William Floyd, Almeron Fuller, William Hall, James Haven, William Henry, Frank Hicks, John Hills, William Jackson, Francis C. Koch, William Floyd, James McKnight, James Murphy, James T. Newington, James Pender, George H. Pinckney, Andrew Simmons, John Stafford, Morris Trout, Josia Turner, James Tyrill, Jeston Warner, William H. Wills.

The regiment was composed chiefly of young men from Detroit and Wayne County who were not already in service. The famous Twenty-

Fourth achieved historic immortality as one of the four regiments known as the "Iron Brigade" which opposed Lee's army on the first day at Gettysburg and took part in encounters with the enemy at Fredericksburg, Va., Port Royal, Fitchburg Crossing, Chancellorsville, Westmorland, Gettysburg, Pa., Mine Run, Va., Raccoon Ford, Wilderness, Spottsylvania Courthouse, North Anna, Tolopatomy, Cold Harbor, Bethseda Church, Petersburg, Weldon Railroad, Hicksford, Hatcher's Run, Dabney's Mills, and the Siege of Petersburg. From its organization, August 15, 1862, until it was mustered out of service, June 19, 1865, its record with the Army of the Potomac was both unique and admirable. It closed its historic experiences by receiving the honor and distinction of being selected as escort at the funeral of President Lincoln.

William Dingman, Claud Campau, Daniel Haight, James Livingston, and William Stoddard, members of the Fourth Michigan Infantry, may also be counted as part of the "Iron Brigade." Their regiment fought in the second battle of Bull Run, Chancellorsville, Chickahominy Ridge, and in the Peninsular Campaign of McClellan's Army.

The Wyandotte volunteers who chose to join the Fourth and Fifth Michigan Cavalry brought back tales of repulsing the Morgan Raiders, marching with Sherman into Atlanta, and capturing Jefferson Davis. Morris Brass, Samuel Lawrence, and James T. Hurst helped in the siege of Atlanta and the capture of Davis. The story of the capture is told in the reminiscences of Mr. A. W. Milkins, who was a brother-in-law of Brass:

"Morris Brass and his three companions were riding along on a country road near Irwinville, Ga., when they noticed an old woman dressed in a calico dress and a sunbonnet crossing a field. They thought nothing of it until they noticed that her dress, at the bottom, kept flipping with every step she took. This aroused their curiosity and upon investigating, they found that it was Jefferson Davis who, disguised as an old woman, was trying to escape. It was the spurs on his boots that had given him away by causing the dress to flare up."

Eugene Armstrong, Leander Ferguson, William Goodwin, Frank Manore, August Misch, and John Wolcott pursued the Morgan Raiders before joining the others at Atlanta.

In other regiments of the war are listed in honor and glory the names of Louis Abeare, Alexander Bondy, Herbert Bullard, Daniel Campau, Nelson Fountain, Alexander Gee, James Gibson, Oliver O.

Hibbard (Chaplain of the 64th Infantry, New York), Nicholas Kettle, Charles LaBeau, Charles LaBelle, Alvin Losee, James McCann, James Murphy, Abel Myers, John Mills, Joseph Schweiss, John Short, J. Solo, John S. Van Alstyne, and Michael Wall.

After the war was over, many who had served in regiments from other cities and states came to Wyandotte to make their homes and to enjoy the respect of the townspeople who remembered that no matter whence they had journeyed forth to battle, it had been for the same cause—unity. On Memorial Day celebrations these names were added: Ira Abbott, P. E. Atchinson, Sanford Bailey, William Belleville, John Belvile, W. W. Bishop, John Boltz, Joseph Brangenson, James Brophy, George Bryan, John M. Bryan, John Bryant, William Carson, Lewis Ceies, John Coop, J. J. Crossmeyer, William Donaldson, S. S. Dreyer, T. D. Evans, Gabriel Farnsworth, J. H. Farnsworth, Samuel Finley, William Goodell, Sr., Patrick Grace, Lewis Grist, Frank Henderson, James Heritage, Gottlieb Marheine, August Martin, Orlo Mason, Herman Michaels, H. Pocott, Michael Priskorn, Michael Purcell, H. Renard, Sr., John Shumacher, Dominick Shatelroe, Michael Socall, George Spavin, D. C. Spears, William Spence, Casper Strong, J. Van Vliet, Charles Von Renner, John Wayman, W. H. Webb, William Weise, Thomas J. Youd.

A few made the supreme sacrifice for whom Memorial Day was inaugurated, in tribute of their national gift:

Lewis A. Baldwin, Company B, 24th Infantry

Captured at the Battle of the Wilderness, May, 1864. Died in the infamous prison of Andersonville, Georgia.

Asa W. Brindle, Company B, 24th Infantry

Killed at Fitzhugh Crossing, Virginia, 1863. Wyandotte G. A. R. Post named in his memory.

John D. Gudith, Company D, 5th Cavalry

Killed in action at Maubertown, Virginia. Buried in Winchester National Cemetery.

William Jackson, Company D, 24th Infantry

Killed in action—record does not state place or date.

George H. Pinkney, First Lieutenant, Company B, 24th Infantry

Died of wounds August, 1864 (place not stated).

John Stafford, Company F, 24th Infantry

Killed in action, Battle of Wilderness, Virginia, May, 1864.

Josia Turner, Company F, 24th Infantry

Died of wounds received at Gettysburg, July 1, 1862.

The Civil War was not confined solely to the battle fields. There existed in the North a sympathetic element which opposed the war on principles. Confederate agents, men of means and influence, were planted in Detroit and Windsor and cities farther south to spread propaganda and to incite resistance. Mass meetings called in Detroit to encourage voluntary enlistments were constantly interrupted by the hoots and jeers of this hostile faction. There were the rumors also that the area was threatened by a plot to arm the confederate prisoners on the islands in Lake Erie for raider attacks. Wyandotte felt the force of the propaganda, to which a large majority of the population responded. Wyandotte's first city election in 1867, in which the "hated" Republican party received a majority, reaped the caustic comments of the rabidly Democratic and southern sympathizing *Detroit Free Press*. Ignoring the listing of the successful candidates they dared to suggest that unpopular returning Union soldiers were forbidden to vote in Wyandotte, thereby eliminating any possibility of a Democratic majority. Another Detroit newspaper reported the story of the arrest and passing of an unprecedented heavy sentence in Wyandotte on a young disturber of the peace "just because he was a Union soldier." Local citizens immediately placed a defensive reply in the paper that the conduct of the soldier was aggressive and dangerous and warranted the extreme penalty of the law. Although the city of Wyandotte did not enjoy the confidence of protagonists of the Union cause, there was no doubt about Eber Ward's intentions. Eber Ward was so active in the Union cause that he brought down upon his head threats of retaliation from the southern sympathizers lurking in the area. In consequence the War Department stationed a company of veterans in Wyandotte to protect the Eureka Iron Works which furnished the sinews of war and at a profit. Wyandotte enjoyed the usual prosperity granted by industry during any war period.

Whatever may have been the sympathies as to principles of the cause, everyone in Wyandotte lamented the death of President Lincoln. A. W. Milkins remembered "many women were seen on the morning when news of his death reached here, crying on the streets. Flags were lowered to half mast, and a memorial service was held in front of the old Biddle House at Biddle and Vinewood."

The years following the war were remembered for unusual festive Memorial Days with services at historic Oakwood Cemetery. Everybody came to town on those days to see the parade of old soldiers who,

dressed in their uniforms, marched to the cemetery, preceded by costumed and well-drilled school children singing in impressive unison.

The time came all too soon when the veterans disappeared and future and more disastrous, world-encompassing wars minimized the local interests in a purely national conflict.

Spanish American War

Beginning its life as a city with the close of the Civil War, Wyandotte found itself entering the Twentieth Century with a veritable bang—the roar from the battleship Maine. Although not a conflict of atrocities, bloody battles and enormous losses, the Spanish American War did disturb the routine of the individual family and Wyandotte added its page to the story of the War of 1898.

News of the President's action in signing the Cuban resolutions which amounted practically to a declaration of war with Spain, was received in Wyandotte with unusual spirit of calm. "There were no public demonstrations such as the ringing of bells or the blowing of whistles but people gathered in groups on the street and talked over the situation. It was generally agreed that the President and Congress had done all that could be done honorably to avert war, and that the nation was simply submitting to the inevitable."

Immediately Fenn Sykes and Bertram J. Bishop began organizing a company for war service. The new volunteer company was formally christened the Wyandotte Guards with the following officers: Commissioned: Captain Bertram J. Bishop, First Lieutenant C. J. Gomond, Second Lieutenant Fenn Sykes. Non-commissioned: Sergeants: Messrs. Hickok, Hatcher, Milkins, Selick; Corporals: Messrs. Coan, Amiot, Selic, Eddy. From the many who signed for service, thirty-five were accepted as physically fit. Continual enlistments provided more to swell the ranks.

Thursday morning, June 30, 1898, the Wyandotte Guard received orders to report at Island Lake. "As it was impossible to notify country members in time to start during the middle of the day, Captain Atkinson made arrangements to have the boys go out in the evening. Accordingly the members of the company assembled at the union depot to take the 5:34 p.m. train going north. A big crowd assembled to see the boys off. Nearly every person there had a friend or relative or near friend in the company and there were many moist eyes. Warrick's

band turned out, escorted the boys to the depot, and played patriotic airs while waiting for the train. J. H. Bishop made a short address in which he gave the boys some good advice as to conduct and diet, said he expected every one of them would creditably represent his home town, and promised that not a single dependent relative left behind would be allowed to suffer for the necessities of life. Mr. Bishop's remarks were warmly applauded. Meanwhile, each volunteer had a button-hole bouquet pinned on his coat and cigars were passed around. Promptly on time the train reached the depot. Farewells were once more said and the boys jumped aboard the cars and, with the band playing 'The Girl I Left Behind Me,' Wyandotte's first organized contribution to the Spanish American War started on its way to the state camp."

After the train pulled out of the station, friends and relatives went home by carriage, bicycle and foot down dusty Oak Street. Remembering the parting words of J. H. Bishop, the Wyandotters found comfort in the knowledge that the soldiers' families would not want for protection and care. Their spirits found assurance that although everyone could not go off to war, each one who remained at home and did his part in needful acts and in the protection and care of the soldiers' families was a patriot worthy of recognition.

Fate ordained that none of the Wyandotte boys were to leave the United States. After training at Island Lake, the regiment was transferred to Camp Meade, Pennsylvania, and thence to Camp MacKenzie, Georgia. While at Camp MacKenzie, the unit received the praise of the commanding officer as the best in the volunteer service.

On February 20, 1899, the war department issued the "mustering out" order for the forty-three Wyandotte boys in Company F, Thirty-fifth Michigan Volunteers. An enthusiastic welcome awaited each member of the company who through no fault of his own was absent from the scene of active warfare. The boys reached Wyandotte at 12:30 Sunday, April 2, 1899. "Owing to the report that the train bearing the soldiers would not stop here, but go on through to Detroit there was no crowd at the depot when the boys alighted. Preparations had been made to give the boys a royal welcome but as no definite word could be received as to the time of arrival the scheme was abandoned." Nevertheless the heart of Wyandotte accorded them patriotic gratitude for having "done nobly, and patriotically for their native city and state. Wyandotte would not forget to honor those who by their patriotism had honored her."

World War I

PROCLAMATION TO THE CITIZENS OF WYANDOTTE

"On Wednesday morning, September 19, 1917, at seven o'clock, one hundred and thirty-eight of our young men from this enrollment district will be entrained at Wyandotte over the Michigan Central Railroad for Camp Custer, at Battle Creek, Michigan.

"At six-thirty a. m., Eastern Standard time, a meeting will be held at our City Hall in the City of Wyandotte, at which I urgently request that all citizens of this district who can possibly do so be present, for the purpose of giving to our departing soldiers a fitting demonstration of our loyalty to them as defenders of our flag and country. Short speeches of farewell will be made by prominent citizens of this district, after which they will be escorted to the train by all citizens assembled, headed by our local band.

"It is my earnest desire that this gathering shall be as large as possible, with the aim of making the parting from home and friends the easier for our brave soldier boys who have so willingly responded to their Country's call.

"May God return them to us again as glorious winners of the fight against oppression and frightfulness."

W. C. Lambert, M.D.,

Mayor of the City of Wyandotte

Wyandotte girded herself for her role in "making the world safe for democracy." How reminiscent of a similar scene some nineteen years before, when the volunteers of the Spanish American War entrained for camp! Each soldier was given a well filled lunch box, through the courtesy of the ladies of the Eastern Star. Manager Wilber of the Majestic Theatre had a motion picture operator take views along the line of march.

Ex-Mayor Bishop once again addressed the citizens and draftees from a table in front of the City Hall. A few of his thoughts were that: "never have men been called upon to fight in a nobler and holier cause. We are fighting not only for our own home and country, but for all mankind, and as long as time shall last, the people of all the world will rise up and bless America for saving democracy for the people of the earth. . . . Americans gave democracy to the world. A mighty cry for freedom echoes around the world and the people of many lands obtained the great blessing!"

After the formalities of checking out of the men at the Oddfellows' Temple on Chestnut street had been completed, the soldiers re-assembled for a parade down Oak street to the Union depot. They were escorted

by the Home Guards and preceded by the Police force and the Wyandotte and Ford bands.

Owing to the immense crowds, which prevented them from reaching the coaches, twenty of the men were left behind. Automobiles were commandeered and the men and their belongings were rushed to Detroit in time to join the group.

The year 1917 witnessed the introduction of the Selective Service System into the national life. Its first number drawn in the lottery in Washington was 258, which was held by Earl Tucker of Wyandotte. Local registrants between the ages of 21 and 30 numbered 1905. In 1918, men between 18 and 45 registered for the draft. Each registrant had a khaki band pinned on his sleeve by the Ladies of the Red Cross. Surprising was the large number of aliens registered. A number of German residents, here for nearly a lifetime, learned to their dismay that first papers did not make them citizens, even though they had been voting innocently for many years. Sixty-five young men volunteered for service with the Polish Army co-operating with the Allies, and the Italians of Wyandotte had a parade to celebrate Italy's third anniversary in the war on the side of the Allies.

"Buy a liberty bond! Get behind your government and shorten the war! This is your fight! Our men are giving their lives; you are only asked to lend your money! There is no better test of your Americanism." This was the exhortation which appeared constantly in the local paper. In October, 1917, the sale of the second issue of liberty loan bonds was capably handled by J. H. Bishop, Charles Marr, George Wilber, and Henry F. Thon. In 1918, an "honor" flag was raised over the City Hall certifying that Wyandotte had again exceeded its quota, this time for the third liberty loan. The first formal flag raising ceremony to be held in the city in connection with the liberty loan drives took place at the plant of the Detroit Valve and Fitting Company; among the speakers was City Commissioner, E. C. Bryan, who eloquently praised Wyandotte's industry for its patriotic endeavor. Also, St. Patrick's Church was the first, and up to then (1918), the only church in Wayne County to secure membership in the Detroit Free Press \$1,000 limit War Savings Stamp Club.

Five Wyandotte Companies of Home Guards were formed August 10, 1917. The enlistments were for a period of three years, but membership did not exempt from the draft. The drills were the same as the army and all young men were urged to join. The guards were essential because of the importance of the down river districts in the industrial world.

In the event of strikes, not only the industries, but the residents would be protected. Also armed guards in fast motor boats patrolled the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair.

Indeed, Wyandotte had vital industries to protect; not only the chemical plants so essential to forging the sinews of war, but the shipyards, which built the lifeline from America to France. Who will ever forget the parody on the popular Irish ballad, which appeared in the *Ladies' Home Journal*: "C-O double R-I, G-A-N spells Corrigan." And who was Corrigan? Just the champion riveter of the entire United States.⁸⁰ In 1918 the Wyandotte shipyard broke the American record for driving rivets in a plate floor, when John Corrigan, Jr., a foreman in the reaming and riveting department, drove 3,415 three-quarter-inch rivets in the plate floor in nine hours. This claim was certified by the United States government and so became official.

Everyone entered wholeheartedly into the spirit of doing his utmost to further the war effort. Joe Hoersch maintained a bulletin board in front of Hoersch Brothers store, on which the advance of the Allies was shown by miniature flags on a map. This visual aid, that gave fuller meaning to the battles taking place across the globe, as well as a more vivid interpretation of events in terms of local interest, was a counterpart of the Arlington's presentations of "live news" back in 1898.

The Masons gave a benefit performance at the Majestic Theatre for the Red Cross, at which Edgar Guest gave readings from his poems. The Government urged children to save fruit pits and nuts to be used in producing carbon for use in gas respirators, designed for protection against German poison gas. J. H. Bishop and the Michigan Alkali put land at the disposal of anyone wanting to grow victory gardens. There were "gasless" Sundays for motorists, as well as "meatless" and "wheatless" days for restaurants. Even the public library reflected the emotional tenseness of the era, for the best sellers adorning its shelves were "My Home in the Field of Honor," "My Home in the Field of Mercy," and "The New Spirit of the New Army."

Because of the vast program of shipbuilding underway in Wyandotte, the United States Emergency Fleet Corporation conducted a housing survey in the city. A number of houses south of Northline and east of the railroad were erected for occupancy by shipbuilders. It later

⁸⁰Today John Corrigan operates a cafe on Third Street, serving just the best muskrat dinners you ever ate!



became known as Federal Square. In 1922 the homes were placed on public sale.

On May 22, 1918, Henry Ford and Charles M. Schwab came to Wyandotte to take part in ceremonies launching a 300-ton ship for war use. The ship was christened with a bottle of wine "which in some way had escaped the ravages of Michigan's prohibition law."

The usual amount of war hysteria, rumors, and appeals to the emotions were present in over abundance. During the influenza epidemic of October, 1918, a rumor was circulating that someone in the Shipyards was squirting influenza germs among the men, when, as a matter of record, of the 300 men employed, there had been only five cases reported.

Subsequent events finally brought to the attention of the people the men who were doing their bit on the battlefields. Before the first contingent of draftees left Wyandotte the report came in of the first Wyandotte soldier to give up his life in France. He was William Jones, who was killed in gunfire September 25, 1917, while serving in the British army. He had left Wyandotte two years previous to enlist in the British army.

Time marched on and the heroic accomplishments of Wyandotte citizens began to be revealed. There were:

Dr. William Honor, Lieutenant Colonel, Medical Corps, United States Army, whose humanitarian services were awarded with the Distinguished Service Cross of the United States and the French *Ordre des Palmes Universitaires*. *Officier d'Instruction Publique* (gold) "for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in organizing and operating the Medical Section of the Labor Bureau, American Expeditionary Forces."

Edward Morrison, an immigration officer, who was presented with the Victory Medal, six bars denoting five major battles and a defensive sector. In addition to the Purple Heart, he was entitled to wear the Verdun Medal, the Four Guerre, the Spanish War Medal and the Philippine Service Medal.

Albert Payette, who was the first in the famous Red Arrow division, 168th Infantry, to win the French *Croix de Guerre* with silver star in March, 1918. The citation read: (Citation of 1st Platoon Company B, 168th Infantry, 42nd Division) "In the course of a German attack launched after a violent bombardment, the men of this platoon, under the cool and experienced command of First Lieutenant A. A. Payette, repulsed the enemy who tried to surround him. The fifth of March, 1918, was the first in which this organization took part."

Coleman B. Ross, office manager of the Wyandotte plant of McCord Manufacturing Company who was personally decorated by the King of Belgium with the Belgian War Cross with palm and made an officer of the Order of the Crown.

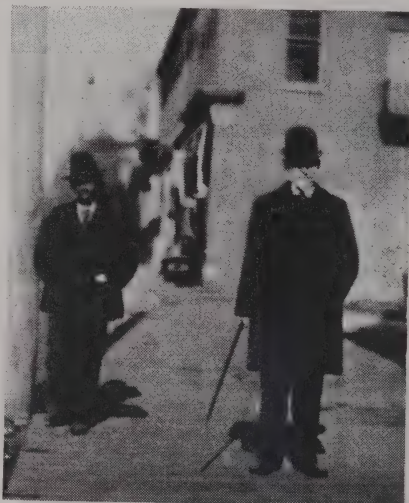
Samuel Snowden, Sergeant, Company H, 125th Infantry, 32nd Division, who received both foreign and United States honors. He received the Distinguished Service Cross "for extraordinary heroism in action near Fismes, France, August 8, 1918. Exposed to intensive artillery and machine-gun fire he crawled to the crest of a hill and administered to a wounded man, thus saving his life. While so doing he was wounded in the right leg above the knee, but, undaunted, he picked up another more seriously wounded than himself and brought him to a dressing station." The French Croix de Guerre with bronze star was presented on December 16, 1918, for the same action.

Many other heroes might have remained unsung if the recently organized American Legion hadn't decided to erect the first and only honor monument in existence today, to the deceased war veterans from Wyandotte. Memorial Day, 1923, was chosen as the occasion for the unveiling of a huge boulder upon which was attached a bronze plate inscribed with the names of World War I dead. The boulder was found near Trenton; the site was selected on one of Superior Boulevard's park islands, near the City Hall. It proved to be one of the most august Memorial Days Wyandotte had ever witnessed. Outstanding speakers from far and wide were present. Superintendent of Schools, Fred W. Frostic, had been granted the honor of the unveiling. He chose as his remark, "These men who gave their lives have lived in the brief space of a few years more than some of us older ones who have taken much longer to rear our ideals." When the string was pulled on the drape the huge crowd bowed its head in grateful respect to the names:

Charles Behm	Joseph A. Gresser	Mitchel Kush
Felix Chojnacki	Boleslaw Gutowski	Emil Nichols
Edward Eppley	Edward C. Headman	Oscar Petraska
Samuel Frankhouse	Peter C. Higgins	Casmir Parish
	Herbert (C) Zaddack	

There was one Wyandotte name that made history, during the war, which was never placed on any honor role, yet the courage was understood and recognized by thoughtful citizens twenty-four years later. That person was Mark Bacon, son-in-law of Captain John B. Ford, who as a member of the United States House of Representatives was one of the few who stood upon his feet and voted "No" against participation in World War I, the only Michigan representative to be so counted. He spoke for the subconscious desires, unclouded by emotion, of every citizen of the United States who wistfully looks to a time when the troubles of the world may be solved by some other means than war.

Because war hysteria and patriotism were being registered at high pitch, the negative attitudes were critically received. Mark Bacon, a kindly and judicious man, had reasons for his opinion and in the face of disfavor he chose to have his speech, "Why I Could Not Favor War," printed on government presses in 1917, hoping that the voters might understand another viewpoint. In this speech to the House of Representatives, Mark Bacon used as a text the thoughts and attitudes of George Washington concerning foreign entanglements and the independent character of America in relation to political connections. He spoke of the destruction to happy homes, the grief of mothers and wives, and the desolation of children. He spoke of the need for patriotism, the respect for the flag, the love of our country,⁸¹ and the protection of the homeland, but he wondered if we might not be rushing into a war zone like a "man who rushes into a saloon brawl and must take what is coming to him and must abide by the consequences."



Mark Bacon enjoying a daily stroll down Biddle Avenue

In his thoughts he prepared Wyandotte for the ensuing wars: "When we look upon the flag we are reminded of the Nation's dead, those who fell in defense of our glorious country in the different wars; fell with the Star Spangled Banner as their winding sheet, weltering in a patriot's blood, dampened with a Nation's tears, remembered in their country's prayers. . . . Aye, throughout all eternity, may that beautiful, that glorious, that grand old flag float in heaven's breeze, . . . but standing under the American flag, as one united nation, may we soon be at peace with the world."

World War II

"Peace with the world" lasted exactly twenty-four years from the year Mark Bacon presented his attitude on war. The date, December 7, 1941,

⁸¹Mark Bacon gave his full measure to the war's success. Two sons, John and Milton, served in active duty and the book "Friends of France" was dedicated to him for help in ambulance work of the war.

the event, Pearl Harbor—War. There was no Wyandotter to stand up in the halls of the United States Congress and register a “no” vote. Foreign entanglements were here to stay in peace and war.

When Adolph Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, Franklin Delano Roosevelt warned the free world that the democratic way of life stood at the crossroads of history. Time and space had been shortened, and whether she liked it or not, America could not long remain indifferent to the philosophy of force rampant in the world, but must marshal her potential strength to keep global war from her shores. To ensure this forced decision, the first peace time draft in the history of the United States was inaugurated.

The repercussions and reverberations of this earth shaking step were many and varied in the City of Wyandotte. In 1940 all males, between 21 and 35 registered for the draft in Wyandotte, numbered 4,575. The first local resident to receive a questionnaire was Harold E. LaBeau, number 158 in the national lottery. Traffic on the Great Lakes and the Detroit River broke all previously existing records for tonnage in coal and iron ore for the defense plants in any navigation season. The navy at once launched an intensive recruiting campaign; all aliens were required to register; and Company “B” left for Beauregard, Louisiana, for active military service.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor started off World War II in earnest in Wyandotte. On December 9, 1941, the City Council established an organization for defense and appointed a World War I serviceman, Ford Wagar, as chairman. Industries announced that they were taking adequate precautions against sabotage, and the Municipal Water and Power plant was fenced off and patrolled day and night. As in World War I, the Detroit River had to be guarded, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, a voluntary group and the first of its kind in the United States, was organized to assist the regular Coast Guard in a twenty-four-hour patrol of the water from the head of Grosse Ile to the mouth of the Rouge River. How serious this problem loomed can best be realized from the Coast Guard's request of the City Council for ordinances regulating cigar and cigarette smoking along the waterfront areas of the city.

On February 24, 1942, Albert Payette, the distinguished soldier of World War I, was appointed head of the office of Civilian Defense. Gus LaBeau offered to furnish a sound truck to be used as a warning scout car in case of danger. The Red Cross, with Mrs. Russell Eberts actively in charge, conducted courses in first aid; and factories and organizations sponsored Blood Donation programs. Because of the imminent possibility

of air raids, especially in the highly concentrated defense production areas, an air defense system was installed with air raid wardens in charge of neighborhood sectors, co-ordinating all operations with a main center of command.

Women and children were organized as never before. The WAAC center opened in 1943, and the Women's Voluntary Service maintained a recreational lounge in the Wyandotte Theatre in the same year. The Fraternal Order of Eagles sponsored the Junior Commandoes and Commandettes for boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 16. Free uniforms and training were furnished and the youthful army rendered invaluable service in bond and scrap drives.

Because of the global nature of this conflict, draftees were rushed in ever-increasing numbers from the induction centers in town to the reception centers at Forts Custer and Sheridan. With the entire civilian population working around the clock in an all-out defense effort, various organizations assumed the responsibility of maintaining the city's tradition of sending her country's defenders off to war with pride and admiration. Days called "I will do my best" were occasions on which crowds were on hand to cheer the departing draftees by their presence, their good wishes, their gifts and parting handshakes.

There were black outs and brown outs; sugar rationing and gas rationing, food and shoe rationing. Factory workers conserved gas by resorting to "share the ride" programs. Delivery services were curtailed; men seeking cigarettes and women silk stockings stood in line for hours hoping the supply would last until it came their turn. There were scrap drives, aluminum drives, paper drives, "let's win with ten" drives, and even "fat" drives to assist the government in its efforts to manufacture explosives.

The influx of defense workers created a housing shortage, which dwarfed a similar situation in 1917 during the ship-building program of the first World War. This condition remained acute even into the post-war period despite the fact that over 300 defense homes were erected in Fordville and many more in the area adjacent to the Sharples Chemicals plant.

World War II was an all-out war, and Wyandotte went "all out" in her efforts to help bring it to a victorious conclusion as quickly as possible. As the editor of the *Wyandotte News Herald* so aptly stated, "Men and women working on the home front had as much a part in helping bring about the capitulation of Naziland as had the soldier fighting in the streets of every town along the road that meant victory. Although theirs is the greatest glory, yet one share of that glory must go to those on the home front who helped make victory possible. Wyandotters played an important

role in the fighting, not only through the products they helped build in the factories, but through their various defense activities."

Through their war bond drives, Wyandotters purchased ships, bombers, fighter planes, and PT boats for the armed forces. Under Clerk LaCourse, the city decided to purchase war bonds with its sinking fund. The deal was completed at a victory war bond auction with LaCourse bidding the entire amount (\$30,000) for a flag for the City Hall. Wyandotte was also the first city in Michigan to buy a fighting ship for the United States.

In 1942 a model ship was made to scale by the Roosevelt High School students, and auctioned to the highest bidder, which in this case was the Municipal Light with a bid of \$130,000. It was planned to use the model as a traveling exhibit to inspire other school children. All industries took active parts in bond purchases, with the Wyandotte Chemicals and the schools often in the lead. In 1943 the Junior Chamber of Commerce sponsored a bond drive which resulted in the purchase of a four-engined bomber. A mobile kitchen unit at a cost of \$1,750 was donated by the British War Relief, Wyandotte Branch, in 1941.

One of the most noteworthy bond drives was chairmaned by Anthony D'Anna in 1942, which resulted in the purchase of the USSTC 1141, dedicated in June, 1943, and named the Wyandotte. When the destroyer escort tied up at Bishop Park dock, Mr. D'Anna presented the ship a cross of Christ blessed by a local priest. The Marine Corps gave a washing machine; the military Order of Purple Heart, a wrist watch for the commander; and the Jewish War Veterans provided a recreation table and twelve decks of cards for the crew. The saga of the SS Wyandotte so auspiciously begun on the banks of the Detroit River was still being eloquently written as late as April of 1954, when Frank S. Worthington, editor of the *Wyandotte Tribune*, brought to the attention of the city the most recent exploit of the long forgotten boat. It was the first boat to steam to the rescue of the men and equipment of the L. S. T. 291 which had floundered on the great Bahama Island reef.

Victory in Europe (V-E Day) May 4, 1945, and Victory in Japan (V-J Day) August 14, 1945, were called peace days but there was no peace, merely an armed truce, and the city continued to prepare for defense.

Peace time drafts began again in 1948. With the outbreak of war in Korea in 1950, Civilian Defense became a more serious community responsibility. The Mayors' Conference of the cities all over the United States gave civilian defense a preference on their business agenda.

Wyandotte established a Civil Defense Control room and appointed John M. Martin Director of the Defense Program in the city. John

Martin held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of Reserves at Fort Wayne. A call for recruits in all fields of endeavor was issued but a very few of the war-weary populace responded enthusiastically.

However, the next year, 1951, records many advancements. Auxiliary police and fire recruits increased; Junior Motor Corps of teen-age cyclists took shape; a volunteer air squadron became a reality; a city-wide blood typing program interested more citizens than the directors had expected; and emphasis was placed on courses in Atomic Nursing and nursing recruitment programs of High School girls.

There was one night in particular, January 28, 1951, which proved to be noteworthy. A carnival air at first pervaded the procedures attendant to staging a mock disaster test, called "Operation Greyhound" but as the program progressed the air changed to one of seriousness and observers from neighboring cities were unanimous in their praise. The test was staged at Kings Highway and Sixth, and when it was over the city found that it had evacuated more than 100 persons from the bombed area to the Wyandotte General Hospital in minutes; actually fed those made homeless in emergency kitchens and actually billeted them in private homes in other parts of the city; gone through its emergency message center to reach volunteers who appeared at the bombed area immediately; asked for stand-by aid from River Rouge, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, Dearborn and Trenton; used normal city equipment to clear real road blocks into the bombed area; used volunteer and city workers to saw their way through barricades into supposedly bombed homes; and swarmed into the bombed area with all available fire equipment. Above all, the city had discovered that "proud Wyandotte had accomplished Michigan's first realistic mock bomb raid and had found its citizens as eager to fight disaster as were the brave people of war-time London." Wyandotte had demonstrated to its neighbors "how team work is the basic essential of any emergency operation and it had shown how such teamwork had been achieved."

During a previous week, another first had been accomplished although for a moment the event had been dwarfed by the importance of the bomb test. Affholter Brothers' Creamery became the first business organization in Wayne County to sign all of its employees for defense work. Plans were initiated to convert their milk trucks into ambulances at a moment's notice.

Once again in this same year of 1951 the voluntary coast guard auxiliary organized to work as border patrols and to assist land defense in the departments of fire fighting and first aid.

The years 1952-1953 were marked by a change in Director of Civilian Defense. John Martin was called to active duty in the army and James P. Cahalan, a member of one of Wyandotte's oldest pioneer families whose wisdom and civic pride and duty had helped to shape the destiny of the city, was appointed the new Director. Civil Air Patrol became better organized, also, during this year.

The seriousness of defense was emphasized during the centennial year, 1954, when James Cahalan appointed an Industrial Committee to perfect protective measures for the vital industrial life line which Wyandotte is to the United States.

The Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation was designated as the official warning service for raids. The signal is to be the blowing of the North and South plant boiler room whistles a series of three-minute blasts for a red alert, and a series of three steady one-minute blasts interrupted by silent periods of two minutes for an all-clear.

With the formal appointment of Earl Duncan as chief of fifty-two active wardens of the city, Wyandotte faces the future of watchful waiting—peace in our time, or everlasting war.

Just as the extent of the late wars has defied designations of world boundary lines, so the honor roll of the City's innumerable human sacrifices produced perplexing considerations for suitable memorial tributes. As the totals of the nation's dead were listed in the newspapers and over the air waves, it rather seemed more fitting in Wyandotte, as well as in every American citizen's heart, to remember that these soldiers "fell with the Star Spangled Banner as their winding sheet, weltering in a patriot's blood, dampened with a Nation's tears, remembered in the citizen's prayers":

"O God, who art Peace eternal, look down upon us as we come to this day when after having tasted the fruits of war we taste the fruit of victory. Now that the guns in one part of the world have ceased and the din of battle has died and partial silence falls upon our bleeding earth, hear us and forgive us.

"Forgive us for those things done or undone which on our part gave cause for war to come. Forgive our enemies for things done or undone which brought misery and suffering to mankind.

"Remember O Lord in Thy loving kindness those who have given their all, their lives; the wounded; those who sleep on foreign and home soils. May their sacrifice burn deep into our memories so that we cannot forget.

"May we this day rededicate our lives, our minds, our wills, our efforts to the cause of everlasting peace. Build peace into our minds, our schools, our

industry, our government. May we thereby remove all suspicion and misunderstanding.

"Grant that the principles of the Prince of Peace, Thy Son, our Lord, be the foundation of the peace to come. Let us truly learn and practice that 'the love of God is broader than the measure of man's mind and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.'

"We pray for our nation, for those in authority, for those associated with us in this conflict. May they continue to bring emancipation to all nations, large and small. Save all from bitterness and disappointment; cause all to seek Thy Kingdom.

"Give to the nations a new heart of comradeship. May out of all this come a finer and deeper sense of brotherhood, a new respect for man and reverence for women. May there be justice and not vengeance so that home may be restored, cities rebuilt and happiness and joy return to our world. Cause all war to cease and teach us the art and life of peace. All this we ask in the name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord."⁸²

"In remembrance of those who have given their all, their lives."*

Lutzykowski, Frank G.

Killed in action January 4, 1942, in the Philippine Islands. Wyandotte's first World War II victim.

Amo, Glenn Joseph, Second Lieutenant

Marine. Missing in action January 21, 1945. Awarded Gold Star
Assenmacher, Frank G., Lieutenant, 10th Air Force, 83rd Squadron, 12th Bombing Group

Killed July 27, 1945 in India in A-26 landing accident, at Pandevaswar, India.
Bardoni, Julius J., Sgt., 15th Infantry, Company C

Killed in France. Date not known.

Bartlett, Edward, Pvt., Blackhawk Div., 7th Regiment, Infantry Company B

Killed in France October 26, 1944.

Beattie, Robert T., Pfc., 142nd Infantry, Cannon Company

Killed in action in France September 19, 1944.

Berens, Edward J., Navy, 60th Naval Construction Battalion

Killed in action January 1, 1944. Cause of death unknown, tropical.

⁸²Prayer of Thanksgiving for Peace, by the Reverend W. F. A. Simon, pastor of St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church. May 1945.

*The listing of servicemen may not be complete at this writing since state and national compilations are not available for consultation. The returns from local questionnaires were inadequate for evaluation. The names of servicemen whose address was outside the incorporated limits of the city have not been included in keeping with the policy of the book. However such names have been placed on file in the library for future compilations and reference.

Biasecki, Leo, Pfc.

Missing in action.

Bielawski, Stanley F., M/Sgt.

Killed in action in European theater.

Biondo, Vito

Killed in action.

Bock, Robert W., S/Sgt.

Killed in action November 20, 1944 in Germany.

Bocianowski, Stanley

Killed in action.

Botkowski, George S., Pfc.

Killed in action in Germany.

Brown, Leonard

Died near Aschen, Germany.

Burkhardt, Jack, Pfc.

Missing in action.

Busch, Walter A., Corporal

Accidentally killed when struck by a landing plane at the Texas army air field.

Carroll, Jack Vernon, AMM 3/c

Missing in action. Listed as killed in action.

Carscadden, James E., Pvt.

Killed in France August 5, 1944.

Catlett, James

Killed in action.

Clark, Frank, T/Sgt.

Killed in action.

Cook, Thomas C., Second Lieutenant WSMCR

Died June 23, 1945 of wounds received in action at Okinawa.

Croly, William H., Pvt.

Killed in action in France in 1944.

Crute, Alex C., Jr.

Killed in action.

Danby, Edgar, First Lieutenant

Killed in action August 27, 1944 while serving with a tank unit in France.

Davis, Lawrence J., Pfc.

Paratrooper of the 101st Division. Died in Holland.

Dawson, Albert T., Pfc.

Killed in action in southwest Pacific area.

Dickerson, William R., Pvt.

Killed in action November 19, 1944 in Germany.

Duclo, Eugene, Battery B, 193rd Field Artillery

Killed in France July 6, 1944.

Ezbicki, Anthony, Pfc., Company E, 9th Marine Battalion, 3rd Marine Division

Killed in the fighting on Iwo Jima February 26, 1945.

Frank, Joseph R., Pvt.

Killed in action. Returned for burial. No details.

Frostic, William, Captain

Killed July 30, 1945 in plane accident over Hawaii.

Gacioc, Anthony, Sgt.

Killed in action in France, December 5, 1945.

Gallagher, William A., Pfc.

Awarded Purple Heart. Killed during Makin Island raid August 19, 1942.

Galloway, Marlin R., Pfc.

Killed in action.

Genthe, Thomas Payton, Pvt.

Killed in action in France November 14, 1944.

Gieble, Robert

Killed in action.

Gierlock, Thomas, S/Sgt., 63rd Division, 7th Army

Killed April 9, 1945. Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement awarded posthumously.

Giest, Alexander, Army Air Corps, 39th Bombing Group, 60th Squadron

Killed in action. Test flight plane crash.

Gilliand, Albert J., Pvt., Parachute Infantry

Killed in action over Belgium.

Gresser, Philip, Pfc., Second Division, 8th Battalion, Company C

Killed in Normandy August 3, 1944.

Harbaczwski, Alex, Pfc.

Killed in action April 22, 1945.

Hedrick, Richard, Pfc.

Killed in action in France.

Helminski, Edward, S/Sgt., 107th Medical Corps, Company B, Red Arrow 32nd Division

Died of malaria and wounds on New Guinea, December 23, 1954.

Henzep, Howard E.

Air Service. Killed in action April 24, 1945 in France.

Herrmann, Frank, Pfc., First Regiment, 19th Infantry, Company G

Died of wounds on Mindanao, August 12, 1945.

Hicks, Edward

Died in Germany.

Hobel, John J., S/Sgt., 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion

Killed in action in France August 15, 1944.

Hudson, Edward Keith, T/Sgt., 7th Army, Company F, 103rd Division, 410th Infantry

Killed in action in France March 15, 1945. Silver Star for gallantry in action awarded posthumously.

Imhoff, Derle

Killed in action.

Jakubiak, Joseph, Pfc., Army Infantry

Killed in action in France September 6, 1944.

Janes, Carl, Pfc.

Killed in action in Germany March 14, 1945.

Johns, David R., Jr., Pvt.

Killed in action May 14, 1944 when allied forces launched a campaign on the Anzio beachhead in Italy.

Kolakowski, John F., Pfc.

Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement against enemy in Germany.

Silver Star for gallantry in action. Died in Germany.

Kondoker, Frank J., Pvt.

Killed in action in Germany. Awarded Bronze Star Medal.

Kotronis, James, Pfc.

Killed in action on Okinawa.

Krolikowski, Sylvester, Pfc.

Received Purple Heart for wounds at Anzio Beach. Killed in France August 28, 1944.

Kwiatkowski, Louis, 1/c USN

Drowned May 19, 1945 on active duty with Navy.

Lambrix, Irving, Pfc.

Killed in action in Italy.

LaMond, Earl D., Pfc.

Returned for reburial. No details.

Lange, Roy E., Pvt., 271st Infantry Regiment, 69th Division

Killed in Germany April 19, 1945.

Lilienthal, Joseph, Corporal, Army Air Force

Died in Hawaii, December 17, 1944.

Locker, H. Dean, Pfc.

Died November 10, 1944, in Belgium hospital.

Loniewski, Joseph, Pfc.

Returned for reburial. No details.

Lubaway, William James, Pvt.

Killed in action on Okinawa.

Mahalak, Charles, S/Sgt.

Killed in action during Anzio beachhead campaign in Italy in 1944.

Malicki, Chester, Pvt.

Killed in action in Italy.

McGinnis, James

Killed in action.

McGrath, James, Pvt.

Killed in action September 9, 1944 in Belgium. Recipient of a division presidential citation for exceptional and heroic military activity.

McInerney, Joseph Leo, Coast Artillery

Killed in action in Alaska August 9, 1942.

McMillin, Joseph K., 45th Division, 157th Regiment, Company H, Army Infantry

Killed in action February 23, 1944.

Menzer, Howard, Flight Officer

Killed April 24, 1945 over Schwabmunchen, Germany.

Messer, Martin, Sgt.

Killed April 8, 1942 in Manila Bay while on the way to Corregidor.

Michalik, Stanley, Pfc.

Killed in Germany November 25, 1944.

Migliaccio, Sam, Corporal

Killed April 13, 1945 on Luzon.

Miles, Roy, Pvt.

Missing in action on Okinawa. Killed in action on Ryukyu Island, May 18, 1945.

Moody, Clarence E., Pfc.

Sniper in Infantry. Killed in action in Italy.

Nareski, Casimer, Pfc.

Missing in action in France.

Navarre, Ernest, S/Sgt.

Killed on Luzon.

O'Leary, Leo, Pfc., 3rd Army

Killed in action April 9, 1945. Burial in Holland.

Opoka, Casimer, Corporal, Company C 21st Tank Battalion, 10th Armored Division

Killed in Germany April 17, 1945.

Papke, Raymond L., Fireman 1/c, USN

Killed in action in Pacific February 21, 1945.

Patchin, Robert M., S/Sgt., 128th Infantry

Received Purple Heart. Killed in action July 13, 1944 in New Guinea.

Pellett, Matthew W., S/Sgt.

Killed in action in Alsace, January 9, 1945.

Pivovar, Johnny, S/Sgt., Coast Artillery Anti-Aircraft Division

Killed in action in Normandy July 23, 1944.

Plona, Casimer, Pvt.

Killed in action in Italy.

Prusch, Bernard G.

Killed in action.

Pruski, Walter, Seaman 1/c, Coast Guard

Buried in Ulithi in the Carolinas. Killed in action.

Ptaszkiewicz, Stephen, Pfc., Company F, 322nd Infantry Division

Killed October 14, 1944 in the Palau Islands.

Putz, Edward, Corporal

Awarded Silver Star for gallantry in action in Germany on April 10, 1945.

Ramey, Raymond R., Army Air Force

Lost on routine flight May 29, 1943.

Raubolt, John, Sgt.

Killed in action June 5, 1945 in Italy by truck explosion.

Repp, William, Sgt., 406 Bombardment Squadron, Company B

Awarded four Oak Leaf Clusters and Presidential citation. Died of head injuries June 20, 1945.

Ridgeway, Kenneth J., Navy Seaman

Died June 7, 1945 aboard USS Bates.

Ringo, John W., Second Lieutenant, Regiment Tuc-Ren-Squadron, Company 20

Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross "for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights over enemy-held territory of Northern Burma. Missing. No date given. Awarded second Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal.

Schultz, Frank, Sgt.

Killed in action in the Battle of the Bulge in Germany November 17, 1944.

Schultz, Roy, Pfc., 9th Army, 291st Infantry, Company M

Killed in action February 4, 1945, in French War Zone.

Serewa, George

Killed in action on Destroyer Emmons April 6, 1945.

Shaffer, Joseph, Sgt., Army Air Corps, Bombing Division

Killed November 26, 1944 when the plane was shot down at Heoson, Germany.

Sheets, Hildie H., Infantry Private

Missing in action in France.

Shelata, Bert J., S/Sgt., 5th Air Force B-24 Liberators

Missing in action.

Skrycki, Joseph A., Pfc., 88th Infantry Division

Awarded combat infantryman badge for participation in combat with enemy on the Fifth Army front. Killed in action later. Family given his Purple Heart medal.

Skrypiec, Theodore, Army Air Force

Killed in action. Air crash June 29, 1944.

Slusne, Paul, Pvt.

Killed in action July 16, 1944.

Smigielski, Eugene, Pfc.

Killed in action in Belgium.

Smikowski, Felix

Killed in action.

Smith, Burton, First Lieutenant, Eighth Air Force

Killed on a mission September 1, 1944.

Smith, Floyd H., First Lieutenant, 5th Air Force, Fighter Command's
348th Group

Awarded Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal. Killed on Luzon.

Stone, Todd, Sgt.

Killed in action in Germany on November 28.

Susanka, Clarence R., Pvt.

Killed in action in France August 8, 1944.

Swonger, Donald L., Pfc., 11th Infantry

Killed in action in France August 8, 1944.

Torango, Robert T., Lieutenant, Army Air Force, Fighter Pilot

Killed when his plane crashed at Kunming, China, October 30, 1944.

Air Medal awarded posthumously.

Trydell, Martin

Killed in action.

Vrancheff, Theodore, Pfc.

Killed in action on Okinawa April 27, 1945.

Wadsworth, Howard F., Pfc.

Killed in action.

Wallace, Joseph Allen, Jr., Army Infantry

Killed in action September 21, 1944, France.

Wojcik, Steve, Pfc.

Died of wounds in Percy Jones Hospital.

Wolfberg, Howard, Pfc., 333rd Division, Infantry

Killed in action April 10, 1945 near Holland.

Young, Melvin, Lieutenant

Killed in Italy May 12, 1944.

Zdunczyk, Edwin F., Second Lieutenant, 15th Army Air Force

Awarded the Distinguished Unit Badge. Cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy. Killed in routine flight crash in Italy, August 25, 1945.

Zdunek, John, S/Sgt., United States Cavalry Troop B, 15th R.C.M. Squadron

Killed in action in France September 12, 1944.

Zeig, Warren H., Pfc., 152nd Infantry

Killed on Luzon February 12, 1945.

Zuzga, Anthony, Infantry

Killed in action in France August 14, 1944.

Korean

Gray, Albert Norman, Pvt., Army Anti-Aircraft Service

Killed in action August 12, 1950. First Wyandotte casualty of Korean War.

Abbate, Vincent G., Pvt.

Listed as killed. No facts.

Hutchinson, Gerald W., Pfc., 32nd Infantry, 7th Division

Killed in action July 11, 1953 in battle to gain Pork Chop Hill.

Knope, Edwin H., Pfc.

Killed in action on the Central Korean front, March 1, 1952.

Kroll, Alex E., Pfc., Eighth Army, Company K, 29th Infantry Division

Killed in Korea March 23, 1952.

Mahalak, Joseph, Pfc.

Killed as a result of a ship collision.

McAfee, Raymond Dean, Corporal

Killed in action in Korea.

Steele, Robert, Captain

"Presumed dead" after having been missing for 728 days.

Tait, Robert H., Pfc.

Died in Korea November 29, 1953.

In appreciation of those whose personal glory brought honor to Wyandotte.*

Adams, Thomas J., Corporal

Meritorious Service Wreath

Ament, Robert M., Ensign, USNR

Awarded Air Medal and Silver Star. Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross.

Aniol, Frank S., Sgt.

Wears three ribbons and three stars. One is presidential citation and other two for action in the Gilberts, and the Marshall campaigns.

Bache, L. William, Sgt.

Awarded Bronze Star for meritorious service in France, Belgium, and Germany.

Bain, Donald M., T/Sgt.

Awarded ETO ribbon.

Barkey, Robert, Captain

Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, Oak Leaf Clusters, and the President's Citation

Bázymowski, Barney J., Pfc.

Awarded Philippine Liberation ribbon and star.

*See footnote on list of the dead, page 408.

Bennett, Clayton A., Lieutenant

Awarded Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

Biebel, J., Sgt., 107th Medical Battalion

Distinguished Unit Badge.

Black, Emil E., S/Sgt.

Awarded first Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal for meritorious achievement in aerial flight. Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross.

Bloomfield, Gerald, S/Sgt.

Received good Conduct, American Defense, Asiatic-Pacific Theater and American Theater Ribbons.

Bloomfield, Linus, Sgt.

Received good conduct, American Defense, Asiatic-Pacific Theater and American Theater ribbons.

Bloomfield, Neil, Sgt., Crew chief on AAF P-38

Awarded Bronze Star and Oak Leaf Cluster for service in Italy. Second cluster awarded for a withdrawal cover mission in support of a heavy bomber attack on the oil refineries at Ploesti, Rumania.

Bolton, Gerald R., Pfc.

Received Presidential Citation ribbon for Solomon Islands Campaign, Pacific Campaign ribbon with three stars, the American Defense ribbon, and the V.F.W.

Bonar, Clyde, Corporal

Commendation by commanding officers of 608th Engineers.

Boyd, William S., Pfc.

Awarded Bronze Star Medal for helping save lives of wounded men in fight for Baguio, Philippine Islands. Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge.

Brakonecke, Morgan A., Major

Awarded Silver Star, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge.

Breene, Kenneth, S/Sgt.

Bronze Star for meritorious service in Germany.

Brinley, Elmon, Pfc.

Awarded Bronze Star.

Burns, James, Pvt., 319th Infantry

Combat Infantryman Badge.

Butler, Harry W., Jr., Lieutenant

Public Information officer of the 9605th Volunteer Air Force Reserve Training Squadron. Recipient of the Air Medal, Purple Heart, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Carey, Charles S., Lieutenant, Company E, 343rd Infantry, 36th Inf. Div.

Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in Germany on April 14, 1945.

Carr, Robert W., Jr., T/Sgt.

Awarded Bronze Star Medal for "meritorious achievement during the period November, 1943 to 15 April, 1944."

Chowinski, Thomas N., Pfc.

Combat Infantryman Badge.

Clark, Frank C., S/Sgt.

Received Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal for completing five missions over enemy-occupied Europe.

Conrad, Miron Carl, Seaman 1/c, USNR

Awarded citation.

Coon, George R., Pfc.

Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge.

Cottrell, Sylvanus, Pvt.

Certificate by Commanding General honoring him for fighting with 29th Division from D-Day to St. Lo.

Couls, Joseph L., T/Sgt.

Awarded Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct ribbon, and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater ribbon with one campaign star. Awarded fourth Oak Leaf Cluster.

Czerniakowski, Ralph A., S/Sgt.

Awarded Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal for courage, coolness and skill displayed on bombing attacks over Nazi Europe.

Dahika, Jack, Pfc.

Awarded Bronze Arrow, Combat Infantryman Badge.

Daly, Richard C., Sgt., 246th Engineer Combat Battalion.

Bronze Star Medal. Awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster.

Dardzinski, Vincent S., Pfc., Company C, 319th Division

Combat Infantryman Badge.

Dawidko, John, Pfc.

Awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Demick, Joseph, Pfc.

Awarded Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Legion of Merit.

Dennis, James, Sgt., 2nd Infantry Regiment

Awarded Bronze Star Medal in Germany.

Ditner, George, Pfc.

Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge.

Draheim, Clinton E., T/Sgt.

Awarded Medical Badge for exemplary performance of duties under actual combat conditions on Luzon. Bronze Star.

Dsynski, Andrew, Pfc.

Combat Infantryman Badge.

Dumack, Eddie, Corporal

Awarded Bronze Star.

- Duvall, Elmer J., 37th Infantry Division
Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge for "exemplary conduct" against Japanese. Defended Hill 129.
- Dylewski, Joseph J., S/Sgt.
Meritorious Service Wreath.
- Dymitryk, John, Pvt., 43rd Infantry Division
Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge.
- Edington, William R., T/Sgt., USMC
Awarded World War II Victory Medal and American Defense Service Medal with base clasp.
- Egland, Larry, Corporal, First Army
Silver Star.
- Emmert, Raymond C., Pfc., 32nd Red Arrow Div., 107th Med. Battalion.
Presidential Unit Citation.
- England, Lawrence H., Corporal
Bronze Star Medal.
- English, Howard L., T/Sgt.
Commended by General Henry L. Arnold for accomplishing a mission "under severe difficulties."
- English, Ray, Sgt.
Awarded Presidential Unit Citation.
- Erdody, Joseph, Sgt.
Awarded Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster for devotion to duty displayed during missions over Germany and occupied Europe. Awarded five Oak Leaf Clusters.
- Ester, Charles F., Lieutenant, Company B, 107th Medical Regiment
Awarded Bronze Service Star for World War II service.
- Eyles, Manley, Pvt.
Awarded Philippines Liberation ribbon. Awarded Bronze Star for meritorious service.
- Fisher, Charles, Pfc.
Combat Infantryman Badge in Germany.
- Fisher, Edward N., Pfc.
Citation by his division of 5th Army "for exceptionally meritorious conduct."
- Florkowski, Edward B., Pvt.
Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge.
- Fountain, Clarence, Sgt.
Awarded Bronze Star for heroism when he knocked out enemy machine gun nest. Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge.
- Fredericks, Eddie, USMC
Presidential Unit Citation.
- Freeman, Uel L., Warrant Officer
Received Bronze Star.

Gabriel, James T., Lieutenant, 122nd Infantry.

Awarded Combat Medic Badge.

Gajda, Thaddeus C., First Lieutenant, 15th Army Air Force in Italy.

Awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action. Also wears the Air Medal with two clusters and the African-European-Middle Eastern Theatre ribbon.

Galuszka, Ralph J., Sgt.

Awarded Air Medal for meritorious achievement over Germany.

Geniac, Joseph F., Pfc.

Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge.

Gerwatkowski, Edward J., Corporal

Awarded Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge.

Gierwatkowski, Edward J., Corporal

Awarded Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman and Distinguished Unit Badges.

Gingras, Albert L., Pfc., Company B., 303rd Regiment, 97th Infantry

Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge.

Ginop, Edward M., Pvt., 90th Infantry Division

Combat Infantry Badge.

Godlewski, Arthur B., Corporal, USMC

Presidential Unit Citation.

Gould, Jack, Corporal, 80th Infantry Division

Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Grahek, Joseph G., Pvt.

Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge.

Gramlich, Ernest J.

Received navy award.

Grupczynski, Frank, Corporal

Awarded Silver Star

Gutowski, Walter F., Pfc.

Awarded Croix de Guerre.

Hackney, Glendon D., Sgt.

Awarded Silver Star for heroism on Luzon April 25.

Haggerty, John, Captain, 13th Army Air Force Flight Command

Distinguished Flying Cross somewhere in Philippines.

Hall, Charles L., Pfc., Infantry

Awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

Hammes, Howard M., S/Sgt.

Awarded Bronze Star

Harbiezewski, Anthony, Pvt.

Awarded Bronze Star for heroism in action on Luzon.

Harbiezwski, Frank, Pfc.

Combat Infantryman Badge.

Hardy, Thomas, Sgt.

Awarded Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service against German enemy.

Hart, Andrew J., Lieutenant, USNR

Awarded Permanent Citation for his Air Medal "for meritorious achievement in aerial flight as pilot of a fighter plane in Fighter Squadron 3, attached to the USS Yorktown in action against enemy Japanese forces in the vicinity of Philippine Islands during . . . 1944."

Heft, Robert E., S/Sgt., 101st Infantry, 26th Division

Awarded the Bronze Star.

Henderson, James, Pfc., 42nd Rainbow Division, 7th Army

Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge.

Herron, Paul O., S/Sgt.

Received Air Medal and Presidential citation. Cited for action in France and the Brenner Pass.

Higby, Paul K., Flight Officer, 12th Air Force

Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. Presidential Unit Citation. Awarded three Oak Leaf Clusters.

Hower, Dale, T/5, ASN

Meritorious Service ribbon. Awarded Bronze Star Medal.

Hudenko, John J., Pfc.

Meritorious Service Wreath.

Hursey, M. R., T/Sgt., 26th Bombardment Squad., 11th Group, United States Air Force.

"Decorated by the United States Government three times for exemplary military conduct with his Flying Fortress group." Awarded Air Medal.

Huskey, Mose L., S/Sgt.

Expert Infantryman Badge. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroism in action November 30 near Nothalten, France.

Jagielski, Stanley, Pfc.

Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge.

Jarrendt, Ralph F., Jr., Captain

Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three clusters, and Purple Heart.

Jarvis, Clifford, USMC

Awarded Bronze Star for outstanding work in battle of Saipan in 1944.

Jelsomeno, Sam, S/Sgt.

Presented with Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in bombing assaults on vital Nazi targets in Europe and in support of advances by ground troops in France. Awarded second Oak Leaf Cluster to air medal.

Johnson, Evald A., S/Sgt., AAF

Air Medal, "numerous Oak Leaf Clusters, and will be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross."

Junod, William N., Company 1, 394th Infantry

Cited for heroic action against enemy in Germany.

Kalisewics, Fred L., S/Sgt.

Awarded Air Medal with three Oak Clusters for 50 missions over Germany and bombing beaches of Southern France.

Kaminski, Edward W., Pvt.

Commendation by Major General Robert W. Douglas commanding the 7th AAF Bomber Base in Marianas.

Kaul, Robert, Pfc.

"Holds three presidential citations and wears three major battle stars."

Kearney, Miles, T/5, 407th Infantry, 102nd Division

Awarded Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in Germany.

Keck, George, Corporal, 7th AAF

Commended for outstanding performance of duty.

Keisel, Kenneth G., Second Lieutenant

Awarded Air Medal for completion of 150 hours of operational flight over India-China air routes. Also, Distinguished Flying Cross.

Kenny, Francis B., T/4

Awarded Philippines Liberation ribbon and star. Awarded Oak Leaf Cluster for Purple Heart.

Kenworthy, Harold, S/Sgt.

Air Medal.

Kirch, Adam, Sgt.

Presidential citation for bravery.

Kolakowski, Paul P., Pfc.

Three Battle Participation stars and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Kozlowski, Anthony, Sgt.

Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Kucyk, Michael, Pvt.

Awarded Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Kveen, James F., Pfc., 91st Division

Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Labadie, Eugene Edward, Lieutenant (jg), USNR

Awarded permanent citation for his Distinguished Flying Cross, "For heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight while serving in Patrol Bombing Squadron 111, during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Borneo, Celebes, Malaya, and Indo-China areas. . . ."

Laudie, Charles R., First Lieutenant

Wears Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 11 clusters, and European Theatre Operations ribbon with 2 stars.

LeBar, James

Awarded Silver Cross for heroic action on the field of battle.

Leimback, Alvin L., Pfc., 5th Army, 349th Regiment, 88th "Blue Devil" Division

Awarded Bronze Star for meritorious service in Italy.

- Lerew, John L., Lieutenant (jg)
Awarded Air Medal for outstanding airmanship and meritorious achievement over Bay of Biscay and English Channel.
- Levon, Edward A., T/Sgt.
Combat Infantryman's Medal.
- Litigot, William, Lieutenant
Awarded Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.
- Loeffler, Harold V., Second Lieutenant, 1279th English
Awarded Bronze Star Medal.
- Lupton, Joseph, Pfc., 96th Division.
Medal from 24th Army Corps Commander for heroism on Leyte, P. I.
- Mach, Leonard N., Pfc., Company A, 180th Infantry Regiment
Silver Star Medal and Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- MacNiel, Neil J., S/Sgt.
Awarded Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters.
- Mahaffy, William J., MM 2/c
Presidential citation.
- Malinowski, Edward A., Pfc.
Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- Manning, Clyde W., Pvt.
Awarded Good Conduct Medal for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity to duty.
- Manning, Floyd Wesley, USNR
Cited by commanding officer.
- Markes, Graham W., Cpl., 15th AAF
Good Conduct Medal and awarded the Air Medal.
- Mawson, Harold D., Warrant Officer (jg)
Awarded the Bronze Star.
- Mazelin, Warren I., Lieutenant
Awarded Air Medal.
- McCann, William, Sgt., 10th AAF, 7th Bombing Group
Awarded Air Medal with Clusters, Presidential Citation.
- McEachern, Hugh A., T 3/c, 5th Medical Battalion
Awarded the Bronze Star.
- McIntyre, Francis M., T/Sgt., 51st Armored Infantry Battalion
Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in Germany.
- Meyers, Earl H., S/Sgt.
Awarded the Purple Heart and Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters for aerial assaults on Berlin, Leipzig, Hamburg, Munich, and other German cities.
- Milian, Paul J., Second Lieutenant
Awarded Air Medal for meritorious service in combat arena. Awarded second Oak Leaf Cluster.

Mills, Ronald S., First Lieutenant, 327th Glider Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division

Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement during defense of Bastogne.

Combat Infantryman Badge. Presidential Citation.

Mitchel, Clayton F., T/4

Awarded Philippines Liberation ribbon and star.

Moore, Edmund, Sgt.

Awarded Silver Star for gallantry in action.

Moore, Floyd E., Sgt.

Awarded Silver Star for gallantry in action in Lenatin River Valley, Luzon, Philippine Islands, June 21, 1945.

Morris, Leslie E., Pvt.

Awarded the Expert Combat Infantryman's Medal.

Morris, William H., Pfc.

Awarded Bronze Star for meritorious service in Belgian Bulge.

Moss, Edward, S/Sgt., 7th Army, 44th Division

Awarded Bronze Star.

Motyka, Stanley L., S/Sgt., 390th Bomber Group

Holds Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

Mross, Joseph W., Lieutenant (jg), USN

Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross. Awarded Air Medal.

Murphy, John, Pfc.

Awarded the Bronze Star for heroism when working under continuous enemy fire and without a weapon, bringing wounded men to safety.

Nadeau, James W., Pvt.

Awarded Presidential Citation.

O'Hare, Joseph J., Captain

Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross.

Omilian, John, Pfc.

Awarded two combat badges.

Omilian, Kasmer, Pfc.

Awarded Bronze Star for heroism in capturing seven prisoners near Albisano, Italy.

Overholt, Raymond M., S/Sgt., 84th Chemical Battalion

Unit was commended by Army Corps twice in Italy.

Ozerniakowski, Ralph A., S/Sgt., 8th AAF B-17 Flying Group

Awarded the third Oak Leaf Cluster to the air medal.

Pagano, Paul

Awarded Silver Star, Four Bronze Stars.

Page, Sidney M., T/Sgt.

Awarded second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal.

Parsons, Earl R., Corporal

Combat Infantryman's Badge.

- Pawlowski, John H., Pfc., 44th Division, 7th Army
Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- Peters, Nicholas J., S/Sgt., 8th Air Forces
Five Oak Leaf Clusters to his Air Medal.
- Phebus, William R., Lieutenant
Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.
- Pidgeon, William R., Sgt.
Cited for meritorious achievement.
- Plasecki, Leo, Pfc.
Awarded Combat Medical Badge.
- Pomnichowski, Anthony, Pfc.
Awarded Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action in Italy.
- Porath, Lewis C., Jr., Sgt.
Awarded Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- Przygocki, Edward P., T/4, 115th Medical Battalion, 40th Infantry Division
Citation for "heroic action beyond call of duty."
- Purdy, John B., First Lieutenant
Awarded Air Medal for achievement in aerial flight from Koewoedoe to Noemfoor Island. Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, later, added two more clusters.
- Rafter, Joseph A., Sgt., 509th Engineering Company, 1135th Engineering Group
Bronze Star Medal.
- Rakoczy, Leo J., T/Sgt.
Bronze Star for "exceptionally heroic achievement against enemy in Germany."
- Rasmussen, George, Pfc.
Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge, one bronze arrow head.
- Reichelderfer, Robert A., Corporal
Given Driver's Award.
- Reuter, Edward L., Corporal, 88th "Blue Devil Division"
Bronze Star for meritorious service in Italy.
- Richmond, William, Pfc.
Received the Meritorious Plaque for outstanding service and work in the Normandy campaign. Received Silver Star and two campaign stars for service in Northern France and Belgium.
- Rieger, William, T/Sgt.
Received Air Medal for 35 combat missions in Africa, Italy, France, and Germany
- Ritchey, Orville, T/Sgt.
Awarded Air Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters.
- Roberts, Richard E., Pfc.
Awarded Arrow Head and Bronze Star for action in invasion of Okinawa.

- Roginski, Norbert S., 1st Lieut., 310th Med. Battalion, 85th "Custer Division"
Awarded Bronze Star Medal.
- Romatowski, Anthony, Sgt.
Presidential Unit Citation.
- Roselli, Louis H., S/Sgt., 48th Armored Infantry Battalion
Received the certificate of merit after active duty in European Theatre of Operations.
- Rucker, David H., First Lieutenant, 351st Bombardment Group
Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross.
- Ruthenberg, Calvin, Pvt.
Awarded Air Medal.
- Savicki, Paul P., Pvt.
Wears the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre ribbon. Crowned novice lightweight champion of the 40th Infantry Division and New Britain.
- Schaffer, Louis E., Pfc., 90th Infantry Division
Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- Schaumberg, William, Sgt.
Awarded Air Medal.
- Schave, Clarence R., Sgt.
Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- Schave, Herman, Pvt., Infantry
Awarded Purple Heart. Took part in "D-Day" invasion.
- Schoemer, Frank, Pvt.
Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- Schrecke, Ralph J., Captain
Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and Presidential Unit Citation.
- Schultz, Jacob J., Pvt., 2nd Battalion, 168th "Rainbow" Regiment
Distinguished Unit Citation.
- Schuster, William L., Pfc.
Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- Schwartz, Yearl, T/5
Awarded Silver Star for action at Bovigny, Belgium, when he captured 52 Germans.
- Serbay, Myron W., Captain, 20th Air Force
Awarded Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross.
- Sertage, Wilfred G., Pfc., Black Panther Division
Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- Sexton, Theodore C., Pfc., 407th Infantry Regiment
Bronze Star for heroic achievement in Germany.
- Shaffer, Delwin C., Pfc., 7th Armored Division
Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.

- Shildkett, Lloyd D., S/Sgt., 34th Bomber Group, 3rd Air Division
Air Medal for "meritorious achievement . . . courage, and skill in aerial warfare." Awarded three Oak Leaf Clusters to Air Medal.
- Shores, Perry L., Pfc., USMC
Cited for action while in combat against Japanese forces.
- Shull, Wayne T., Lieutenant, 371st Field Artillery Battalion
Awarded Air Medal.
- Shuryan, Alfred A., S/Sgt., 103rd Infantry Regiment, 43rd Division
Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- Shuryan, William P., Pfc.
Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- Sikes, Ollis E., Pfc., 87th Mountain Infantry Division
Awarded Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- Siler, Lloyd G., Lieutenant
Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.
- Simpson, Andrew, Sgt.
Awarded Bronze Star for meritorious achievement in Germany.
- Smith, William, Corporal
Unit Presidential Citation.
- Sobocienski, Raymond R., Pfc., 405th Infantry
Bronze Star for heroic achievement in Germany.
- Spencer, Albert W., S/Sgt.
Awarded Air Medal.
- Steele, Robert, Lieutenant
Awarded Air Medal for participating in bomber combat operations over enemy occupied Continental Europe.
- Stoelt, Oscar, Pfc.
Awarded Philippines Liberation ribbon and star.
- Sturgeon, Robert D., USMC
Awarded Bronze Star for meritorious achievement during battle of Iwo Jima.
- Swart, Gordon F., T/Sgt., Gunner
Awarded two Oak Leaf Clusters to Air Medal.
- Swieckowski, Stanley A., First Lieutenant, 5th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop
Bronze Star Medal in Germany.
- Syskowski, Francis E., T/4
Awarded Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement on Luzon.
- Szitts, William, Lieutenant
Awarded Air Medal.
- Taurence, Stephen E., Pvt.
Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.
- Tinsley, Walter Allen, Sgt.
Received good conduct ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific ribbon and the Presidential Unit Citation ribbon.

Trela, John F., 1/c, USNR

Awarded Commendation ribbon for bravery.

Trusewicz, Henry, Pvt.

Set up a laundry to serve a field artillery battalion on jungle-covered island in Southwest Pacific.

Turscanyi, Joseph S., Jr., Sgt., 407th Infantry Regiment

Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in Germany.

Van Hatten, Dale, Sgt., Medical Detachment, 378th Infantry, 95th Division

Awarded Bronze Star Medal.

Wardell, Raymond A., T/Sgt.

Awarded Air Medal for five combat missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

Warren, Leo S., Pfc.

Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Watson, Earl, Corporal

Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Webb, Everett G., Jr., T/5

Awarded Bronze Star for heroic achievement against enemy on March 20, 1945 near Holzappel, Germany.

Wieclaw, Joseph A., Pfc.

Awarded Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Wierzba, Clement J., Pfc., Company B, 28th Infantry Regiment

Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Withers, Harry J., Lieutenant

Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. Participated in 35 bombing missions to Berlin, Brunswick, Gotha, Munich, and bombed in support of ground forces on "D" Day.

Witt, Carl, Corporal

Awarded Bronze Star for meritorious service against enemy in Germany.

Womer, Arnold L., S/Sgt., 356th Fighter Group

Distinguished Unit Badge.

Wood, Raymond "Dutch," Sgt., Company C, 75th Medical Brigade

Awarded Silver Star for gallantry in action in France.

Wood, Raymond, Corporal

Awarded Silver Star for aiding wounded under fire.

Work, Robert E., Sgt., B-17 Flying Fortress Group, 15 AAF

Unit Citation in recognition of one of the most outstanding bombing missions of the war.

Wright, Samuel B., Corporal

Awarded Air Medal.

Zaddach, Ira George (Paratrooper)

Held Asiatic-Pacific and ETO ribbons with five stars; Purple Heart, Good Conduct and Marksmanship medals.

Zalewski, Edward J., Lieutenant, 8th Infantry, Division ETO

French Croix de Guerre.

Zalewski, M. Leo, Y 2/c, USNR

Awarded Bronze Star Medal for action off Okinawa April 28-29, 1945.

Zdanowski, Joseph T., Corporal

Awarded Silver Star posthumously for bravery in action.

Zdunczyk, Edwin, Second Lieutenant, 15th AAF

Awarded second Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for the Air Medal.

Zeschin, Alfred E., T/4, 7th Armored Division

Awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Korean

Bissett, Charles P., Pfc., Battery B, 11th Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division

Awarded Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in Korea.

Brakoneke, Lieutenant Colonel

Awarded Silver Star, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, French Croix de Guerre with palm, Presidential citation, master parachutist badge, glider badge, ETO ribbon with four stars, pre-Pearl Harbor ribbon, occupation ribbon, victory ribbon, and American Defense ribbon.

Esser, Frederick C., Sgt.

Awarded Commendation ribbon.

Gouth, Johannes L., Sgt., 223rd Infantry Regiment

Invented freezer for keeping ice cream solid during summer months.

Kalmay, Walter J., First Marine Air Wing

Bronze Star for Chinese Communist Aggression.

Komosa, John H., Pvt., Company E, 7th Infantry Regiment

Awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Moltz, William, S/Sgt.

Built a mess hall and chapel for Korean troops.

Morris, Albert, Boatswain's Mate, 3/c USCG

Awarded Coast Guard Valor Medal for his part in the heroic rescue of 11 crew members from the sinking tug, Neptune, in the North Pacific.

Perry, Robert D., Corporal

Awarded Silver Star, Bronze Medal, and Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Peterson, William, Pfc., Company F, 32nd Infantry Division

Received Purple Heart and Bronze Star for gallantry in action.

Schuster, Stephen L., Jr., Captain

Awarded gold star in lieu of his fourth Air Medal for courageous conduct in aerial attacks against Red forces in Korea.

Stackhouse, William J., Corporal, 937th Field Artillery Battalion IX Corps

Presented with Bronze Star Medal for heroism in action in Korea.

CHAPTER 15

CITY ACHIEVEMENTS

"Here, truly the good old phrase 'salt of the earth' takes on new overtones and undertones without losing either its ancient authority or its modern industrial and scientific value for a nation proudly possessing the world's highest standards of living, cleanliness, and efficiency."

Arthur Pound

Salt of the Earth

(History of the Wyandotte Chemicals Corp., Atlantic Monthly Press, 1940)

MACCAULEY once wrote, "A people that takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations." In this spirit are proudly recorded the events and the distinctive services that the citizens of Wyandotte have been able to contribute to the state, nation, and world at large. It has been recognized that the blessings of a free and democratic country have made it possible for the citizens to accomplish more than the territorial extent of land would suggest.

Richly endowed with natural resources and advantages, the greatest salt beds to be found in America, adjacent limestone quarries, "ribbons of steel" linking with the cities of the East and West, North and South by train, truck, and ships; inspired by the leadership of men of genius, and fortified by the strength of the laboring man, the City has been able to make an impressive record in the Industrial World.

The first Bessemer steel process in the United States was run at the Eureka Iron Works in 1864.

First iron rail cross ties ever made in the United States were rolled successfully at the Eureka Rolling Mills November 17, 1881.

First composite steamer on the Great Lakes, the "Myrtle," was built at Wyandotte in 1874. Over two hundred ships that plied the lakes were built and launched between 1870-1920, the period of Wyandotte's ship building industry.

Many "firsts" in the processing of furs were introduced at the J. H. Bishop factory between 1875 and 1914. Jerome Holland Bishop was one

of the first to use analine dyes on furs, to import furs from Australia and other foreign countries, and to line garments with sheep skins.

Wyandotte is world famous as a chemical center. The largest bleaching and powder plants in the world are located here. The dry ice plant at the Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation is the largest single unit in the world. The Company is the third largest alkali producer in the United States, the world's largest manufacturer of specialized cleaning products for business and industry, and the new research building is one of the finest in the chemical industry.

The Pennsylvania Salt Company operated the first steam turbine used in the United States in 1902. The first tank of liquid chlorine ever to move on American rails was shipped from the Pennsylvania Salt in 1909. This company developed one of the most successful electrolytic processes for the manufacture of alkalis from salt which helped to revolutionize that industry. Pennsylvania Salt was the first in the United States to manufacture and market fluorine in 1946.

Wyandotte has been one of the leading roads for the toy parade, especially guns manufactured by the All Metal Products Company.

Many inventions were originated in home workshops and local factories which have been beneficial to the industrial market during the period of the product's usefulness.

Joseph Girardin, Sr., invented the iron wheelbarrow and thereby "averted the use of much profanity." Other "life saving devices" have been the George Clark Metallic Life Raft invented by one of Wyandotte's first white settlers and used a great many years on the Great Lakes steamers. W. S. Coon, a former clothing merchant of Wyandotte, invented a fire escape in 1888 which he negotiated with the Eureka Iron Works to manufacture. It consisted of a series of platforms two and one-half feet square arranged in zig-zag order, and each three or three and one-half feet above the other. Down these the inmates of a burning building jumped or slid and were prevented from falling off by netting or rods surrounding the escape and forming a sort of cage.

Inspired by the Slocum excursion fire in 1905, Harry F. Wilkinson worked to perfect a life saver for boats. The New York Red Cross adopted the invention, and after the Titanic disaster in 1912 Wilkinson received letters from high officers of the White Star line and others, including Brooklyn experts praising his device as "the best ever invented." Lewis A. Eastman brought this type of invention up-to-date during the 1940's. Eastman was a police and fire commissioner in Wyandotte

for six years. His fire escape chute is called an "evacuator" and "is rigged to a steel frame which can be set up in an open window in a few seconds. It is a fire proofed canvas chute, suspended between two cables. "Fifty people can be evacuated from the fifth floor in the time it takes firemen to carry two persons down ladders," according to Eastman. "The device is already in use by numerous fire departments," Eastman said. During the war, soldiers with machine guns and mortars and other field equipment used the "evacuator" to reach landing craft for beach head assaults. Army officials reported the device transferred troops ten times as fast as landing nets. It was also used as part of the equipment of Franklin Delano Roosevelt during his many journeys.

Transportation problems intrigued many mechanically minded citizens. "Joe" Kirby always had an idea for some gadget, and his street car ideas included heating safeguards, ventilation and sanitary conditions. With a gravity railroad gate he hoped to prevent railroad crossing accidents. It was planned to work to give absolute right of way to either steam cars or vehicles. Among Mr. Kirby's numerous inventions, the smoke-consuming furnace and the thermostat control proved to be the most acceptable to the people. T. G. Gray installed one of the furnaces at his flour mill with excellent results.

Frank Fairchild invented a trolley catcher in 1899 which rapidly replaced those in use in former years. The Wyandotte line to Detroit was equipped with the catcher, and Grand Rapids was one of the first to adopt the device.

E. W. Potts, a former Eureka Iron Works executive, designed and manufactured after 1900 a trolley wheel. Eighteen other inventions were also manufactured in the Potts factory in Detroit. While in Wyandotte, Elijah Potts had invented a concrete mixer and a movable fire escape.

A spring seat which motormen on street cars enthusiastically praised in 1912 was found to have been invented by William M. Bailey of Wyandotte. Plans were made to apply it to other stools in the market.

Ira Abbott, Wyandotte's inveterate inventor, produced many new ideas for automobiles. One concerning springs which were attached to the wheels caused much merriment. His patent on a steam turbine in 1907 wasn't such a laughing matter.

Leo DeSana was granted a patent on a new hydraulic snubber for use on automobiles in 1927. Clayton Wyrick was awarded a patent on an "automatic compensator for wear and lost motion" in 1934, followed by his invention of a printing machine in 1941.

A flow and temperature control regulator for automobile vehicle

engine systems was patented by Harry Rose in 1939. This was followed in 1942 by his invention of a combination hot water and steam heater. In that same year Frank C. Haas was granted a patent for a lubricant.

E. W. Wagner constructed a new type carrier for automobiles in 1935. It was the single type with the motor driving the wheels instead of pulling a trailer as in the case of the other carriers in use at that time.

After Lewis Scofield had completed his invention of the railroad cross ties, which became so famous, Reverend George Bloodgood of the Episcopal church in Wyandotte invented an arrangement in 1881 which improved the method of fastening the tie to the rail. Reverend Bloodgood was listed as "an educated railroad engineer."

Likewise in 1881, William Powers, a stonecutter in Wyandotte, invented a car coupler which came nearer "meeting the idea of such a thing than most of the inventions of that kind."

The hopper bottom or self unloader type freight vessel in use all over the Great Lakes was credited to George Palmer of the Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation in 1907 and was first used on the company's transportation fleet. Fitzhugh "Joe" Kirby's earlier attempt at this same device was not legally patented.

There have been a few inventions which were designed to help heavy industries, such as J. H. Steele's government patented treatment for steel sheets in 1932 and Henry Challingsworth's contrivance in 1890 for pulverizing and utilizing foundry sand which had been used and rendered valueless. It was expected to make a reduction of fifty per cent in the amount of sand used in foundries. In 1920 William D. LeBar of Wyandotte and John Cranston of Trenton invented a rectangular, electrolytic cell for the manufacture of chlorine.

Some of the local inventors had the "little woman" in mind when they tried their hands at clothes driers and dish racks. F. A. Kirby did something about this too in 1888 and invented a drier in connection with a furnace. Also in 1888, Joseph Halpin applied for a patent on a device to be known as the "Eureka Clothes Sprinkler." Pickett's Clothes Bar was attempted at this same time, with J. H. Bishop interested in aiding the manufacturing of the invention. In 1942 Harry J. Tinney was granted a patent on a drying rack for dishes, glasses, vegetables, and fruits. "Two Wyandotte young men" invented a device in 1900 which made worn fruit can covers as good as new. Gartner Brothers were granted the exclusive right for the manufacture and sale.

Other phases of Wyandotte's manufacturing interests found expression with the individual inventor. A. J. Decker invented a toy truck in 1932.

A hydrocarbon compound containing sulphur was patented by C. W. Deibel in 1929 although Lee H. Clark of Grosse Ile had received a patent for a similar product. A real surprise occurred in 1952 when Mrs. James DeMaggio of Wyandotte, Mrs. Clarence Woods of Trenton, and Mrs. Crystal Booth of Lincoln Park turned out a chemical secret which makes home pottery making a work of art. A simplified slide rule invented by Dr. Coleman J. Major of Sharples Chemicals, Inc. in 1949 has proved to be a boon to chemical engineers all over the country.

There may sometimes be found among local inventions some unusual one which may not be found elsewhere. Wyandotte has had such an invention—the reconstruction of old pianos into new. J. W. Bethune, a pianist and piano tuner by profession, became concerned over the cutting off of piano construction during the 1940 war years when he felt music was so badly needed for the morale of the country. Everyone wanted new spinet type pianos, yet he observed there were many old bulky uprights burdening attics and storage rooms. An idea was born and he took an old-fashioned parlor piano, waved a magic wand, and the results of modernization were so startling that a revolution occurred in the Piano Tuners and Manufacturers Society. Mr. Bethune refused to take out a patent because he wanted to aid the cause of good music in the country and to help piano manufacturers in the pressing economic war time. "If you can help your customers with it," he told them, "you may also help mine and my four boys who are in the service of our country." So another idea was born in Wyandotte which spread all over the country—one that made possible better music for a nation in need of it.

A gas self-lighting device placed on display in the Wyandotte Light and Fuel Company office in 1902 seems familiar today. The invention was credited to M. M. Spear. By his patent the gas could be turned off entirely, avoiding the danger of leakage in case the flame was accidentally extinguished.

Health measures have not been overlooked by Wyandotte inventors either. The intestinal tube of Dr. William Honor and Dr. Henry Smathers is not only noteworthy in the field of medicine, but has been manufactured in Wyandotte by Albert Payette. The druggists Dorrance and Garrison manufactured a cough medicine around 1900 that was used in nearly every Wyandotte household and had a wide sale throughout the area. Frank Merrill and James F. McNeill, after two years of planning and designing, perfected a portable tray which attracted the interest of the United States government for use in veterans' hospitals. It has been named the Merrilon Bed Tray, and is especially adaptable for occupational and

therapy work. Frank Merrill is Wyandotte's blind operator of a local news-stand.

Finally to leave no doubts as to Wyandotte's intentions regarding law and order, Israel Maloch patented in 1905 an electric alarm designed to be attached to jail doors and windows. The idea was to foil attempts at prison escapes. The Wayne County jail installed the device.

The citizens of Wyandotte have had a share in the heritages of the historical significances of the area as one recalls the scenes of fighting during the war of 1812. The famous battle of Monguagon took place in the south of Wyandotte. Here also occurred the bloody massacre of the war in which Van Horne and his man were annihilated by the Indians. Pontiac's conspiracy against the British was plotted on a spot of the Ecorse River known today as "Edward's Bridge."

Continuing militarily, Wyandotte is recorded by the Military Order of the Purple Heart as the first town in the United States to have had a statue erected by this Order. It was dedicated in 1943 as an event of a State Convention of the Order held in Wyandotte. The statue is located just west of Biddle Avenue on Superior Boulevard. During World War II, the Wyandotte Coast Guard Auxiliary was the first such voluntary group in the United States. The National Victory Garden Plaque was awarded in 1946 to Wyandotte as one of two cities in the area to win a plaque for outstanding work in victory gardening, and Wyandotte was the first city in Michigan to buy a fighting ship for the United States through war bonds. Today the city is taking a leading part in Wayne County and in Michigan with civilian defense programs. The first practice bomb demonstration in the midwest was staged here, and Affholter's business firm was the first business organization in Wayne County to volunteer all its facilities for use in emergencies.

Educationally, Wyandotte has attracted considerable attention by the unusual courses offered in the school curriculum. Roosevelt High School was the first high school in the United States to conduct an international experiment in education in which students studied their own community in connection with other high schools in the country and outside of it. This class is called the "World as a Community Class." It was instituted in the fall of 1945 under the auspices of the American Red Cross. The first exchange visit was with Montreal, Canada.

The local high school took initiative in the matter of manual arts in constructing the first glider ever completed in a high school in the United States. It was built in 1929 under the guidance of instructor Clare Jones by Allen Wood, John McClellan, and George Campbell.

In recent years a successful experiment has been conducted in which students interested in skiing are permitted to journey to Boyne City under teacher guidance for the enjoyment of the sport, at the same time conducting their regular courses of study.

Sport-wise, the city has maintained a place worthy of mention. Boating has brought nation wide fame to Wyandotte by the winning of four national championships: 1892, 1926, 1943, and 1946. In baseball, 1907 brought the World Indoor championship to Wyandotte. State championships have been won three times, 1906, 1949, and 1952. The Shimmel Memorial trophy for pigeon racing rests permanently today in the show case at the City Hall because Wyandotte won the races two years in succession in 1941. Pigeon racing has long been established in Wyandotte, and many pigeons from Wyandotte breeders have been used by the United States government. Nowhere else in the world is there another pigeon race comparable to the Shimmel Memorial Race.

Wyandotte may be better known for the individual exploits of its sports enthusiasts than for the events themselves. The city is fast becoming known as "the home of champions." No local baseball player will ever be able to top Bob Kusava and his memorable winning of the World Series two years in succession, although Ed "Autch" Mierkowicz follows a close second. In 1945 he was a member of the Detroit Tigers team in the position of left field and played in the World Series. After the close of the war and the return of the former players he was sold to St. Louis. For a number of years he has been playing with semi-pro teams in Buffalo, Little Rock, Detroit, Seattle, Rochester, and others. Football has also been his field of sports. While in High School, he was a member of the 1942 Roosevelt High School Championship football team, receiving the award nomination of all-state end. He was considered to have played end in football like Gehringer played second base in baseball. Wyandotte is proud of Ed Mierkowicz, not only for his athletic ability, but for his "clean sportsmanship, his integrity, loyalty, courage, and amiable disposition." Aloysius "Wish" Eagan, well known former ball player with the Michigan Alkali team, became nationally known as the advance scout and manager of the Detroit Tigers. National acclaim in baseball came to Wyandotte also through the City Recreation Director, Benjamin Yack. His sensational batting tee used in "kid league" baseball was hailed by experts and stole the National Recreation convention spotlight in 1952.

Every Wyandotte oarsman who was a member of a championship crew may be listed as distinguished, but if one wishes to seek a champion of champions he will find such a one in Wyandotte's Ed B. Nellis. Ed B.

Nellis received fame first as a member of the famous four-oared championship crew of 1892. From that time on, he became a record breaker in canoe racing. In 1901 he and his brother, Elton R. Nellis, won the tandem canoe race of the Northwestern Association Regatta at Grand Rapids. There was just one Wyandotte man on shore when this race was finished. As the Wyandotte crew passed the line, he "let out that famous Indian yell—a compound of exultation and defiance—which has been so familiar on athletic fields and waters for the past thirty years." The man was Henry McCleary, who happened to be visiting in Grand Rapids at the time.

In 1907 Ed Nellis demonstrated his right to the title of champion canoeist of the United States (which meant the world). At the annual meet he won the half mile championship of double blades and also the half mile tandem. Two years previously he had also won the double blades championship. Sports writers commented that "few if any athletes in the country had maintained their strength and cleverness for so long a period as Ed Nellis." A record of twenty continuous years as a successful athlete was considered an unusual one in the history of aquatic sports. Four years later, in 1911, he added to his fame by breaking the long distance paddling record from Port Huron to Wyandotte. The feat was not only a record breaker, 75 miles in 11 hours and 55 minutes, but was an example of unbelievable endurance when one considers the number of strokes with a paddle it takes to come from Port Huron to Wyandotte. Ed Nellis today is an exceptional "youth" of eighty odd years working actively in his garden at the corner of Biddle Avenue and Poplar Street.

In another of Wyandotte's natural sports, ice skating, the only native born Wyandotters who may be considered distinguished are Nancy Winn and Ed Finnegan. Nancy has won the state titles in 1953 and 1954 in various meets. Many other intermediate honors have come her way bringing fame to the city and herself as the first champion girl skater born in Wyandotte. Ed Finnegan has placed in the Olympic try-outs and won several races including the 220 yard dash at the National Championship races in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1948.

In marksmanship E. W. Speck rated perfect scores in several State Meets; Dr. Honor, Edward Petrie, George W. Harris, Glenn Zavalney, and Charles Rischert have won national rifle awards.

Joe Sutka and Johnny Pivovar have been winners of sensational bouts in the field of boxing.

Earl Sonnenberg has been the city's record track man.

Paul Storries became a brilliant player on the football team at the University of Detroit.

Joan Johnson has been Wyandotte's outstanding tennis player. She won many city and regional championships before winning the National Public Parks' tournament in 1950.

With the city's reputation for men of endurance, it was not unusual that Wyandotte should send Stanley Kratkowski, a national weight lifting champion, in the 165-lb class, to represent the United States in the Olympics at Berlin in 1936. He wore the colors of the Michigan Alkali Club.

The television, magazines, and sports casters are bringing the world's attention to Ann Marston, a fourteen-year-old Wyandotte high school girl who has set three world archery records since the beginning of the 1950's.

Wyandotte seems to have a penchant for "firsts," and a list could continue to unlimited lengths including the fact that after the local Wyandotte Theater was constructed, it was the only theater in the United States which could run double features and sell them as single features, due to the inclusion of two auditoriums under one roof. A person could view only one of two pictures at a given time. The reduction in theater attendance in the last years has discontinued this activity. The approval for the first fluorination of water in October 1949, and the first FM radio station in September 1947 in the Down River Area were other evidences of the city's ability for leadership in a wide range of interests.

The talents, resources, special interests, and achievements of many men and women from the ranks of business, the professions, and private life have placed Wyandotte in a favorable national and international spotlight. While adding to their own laurels these individuals have indirectly elevated the quality of Wyandotte citizenship. Some of them are writers whose poetry, short stories, and articles have appeared in magazines and books; some are musicians: pianists, violinists, conductors, vocalists; some are artists in oils and water colors; others have chosen less beaten paths to reach a place in the spotlight.

Among the writers are: Mrs. W. B. Baggott, noted for her "Verses for Mother's Day" which appeared in 1938, 1940, 1941, and 1942; Mrs. Clara Doty Bates, who wrote children's stories about 1888; Dr. E. P. Christian, articles on medicine and history; Mable Coan, poetry and scenarios; Sara Craig, whose poetry was included in the anthology, "Tribute of Triumph"; Jacob C. Doerr, poetry in "Poetry Broadcast," an anthology of verse compiled for radio

presentation; Arthur Dunham, whose book, "Working With Plastics," may be had at the Bacon Memorial Public Library; C. E. S. Eddie, an article on war time lubrication in the Houghton Line magazine, 1943; F. W. Frostic, a text-book, "The Pupil's Workbook in the Geography of Michigan"; Sgt. Charles Gorsky, poems published in army magazines, known as "jungle poet"; George Gouth, an article in *Mechanix Illustrated*; Mrs. Helen DuFour Graham, a book, "Cat Tales," on the shelves of the public library; Mary Holt, fiction in *Modern Romances*; Edith Luella Johnson, poetry awarded prize in University of Michigan's Hopwood contest and children's books; Richard T. Kelly, an article, "The Council's Function in Purchasing" in the *American City*; Wilfred Kane, an article in the *Commonweal*; Winifred Stoddard LeBar, poetry and fiction in *Magnificat*, *Rosary*, *Christian Family*, *Christian Century*, *Young Catholic Messenger*, *Preservation of the Faith*, and other magazines; F. W. Liddle, an article, "Thin Paving Goes Farther," in *American City*; Louis A. Noehr, an article on Wyandotte's pumping station in *American City*; Edward Path, who is the editor of the *Michigan Fraternal Order of Police Journal*; Paul Sampson, an article in *Dale Carnegie's* "How to Stop Worrying and Start Living"; Wesley Showalter, an article, "Intoximeter vs. Self-Incrimination," in *Fraternal Order of Police* magazine and history of *Police Work* from ancient time in "Peace Officer"; James A. Stewart, articles and series of illustrations in *Popular Photography*; Sadie Steinmetz, poetry in *Writer's Monthly* and *American Poetry* magazines; Ted Tojakiewicz, short stories and novels published in newspapers and magazines, one in *Saturday Evening Post*, also poetry; Dr. E. Townsend, articles in *Liberty* magazine during 1925-1926; Lilla Hughes Tyler, an article, "Finding Art Through Music," in *School Arts*; Mrs. William C. Wartig, short stories in eastern publications; Benjamin Yack, article, "Wyandotte Gets a Swimming Pool" in *National Recreation Association's* official organ; Catherine J. Lynn, poetry in *Caravan of Verse*, *World's Fair Anthology of Verse*, also copyrighted songs; Dr. L. R. Bacon and Joseph V. Orthalek, an article for the *American Ceramic Society's* 54th annual meeting. Dr. Bacon, a chemist with the Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation, is a prolific writer on scientific subjects. Also included among Wyandotte's writers are: Mrs. Cora Hyatt, Daisy Downing, William H. Littlewood, Ralph Hood, Jack Smith, Louise Heck, Mrs. Ida Hill, Mrs. Conrad Kreger, Dorothy Konarska, Thomas Deskin, Mrs. A. E. Sable, William Kincaid, Sarah Maddock, Mrs. Eunice Gabriel, and Muriel Wilkinson.

Among the musicians, exceptional recognition has been granted: Mar-

cus L. Betwee, composer of the 325th Regiment March; Charles Denman, winner of a gold cornet for a cornet solo in a state tournament, 1908; Margaret Eddie, vocalist with the Fred Waring Choral Ensemble, 1952, and feature soloist with other groups; Walter Evich, viola player, one of the youngest members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra; Ole Foerch, organist and radio performer for eleven years; Lyn Grazini, 13-year-old boy member of the famous Apollo Choir; Mary Griffith, harpist with the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, Curtis Symphony Orchestra, and the orchestra of Metropolitan Opera during the 1930's; Ida Heintzen, harpist under contract with the Royal Italian Band in Europe in 1900; Fordyce Hunter, notable pianist and faculty member of the Detroit Conservatory of Music, 1890's; Jennie and Lillie Hughes, song writers, collaborators in "Tommy Chipmunk," 1950; Jo Ann Korn, member of nationally known supper club trio "The Rhythmettes"; Carmen Morlock, radio vocalist, 1922; Charles Nordman, music teacher in public schools, listed in *Who's Who in Music*; George Pearce, writer of words and music of best seller song "The Kiwanis"; Jack Qualey, orchestra leader of bands playing for prominent industrial and social leaders' functions; Thomas (Pointkowski) Tipton, baritone winner of Grinnell Foundation Scholarship and member of the New York Center Opera Company, 1950's; Professor Edward P. Sprague, master organist and foremost artist in vocal culture, training many notable singers, 1880's-1917, Gabriel Szitas, child prodigy in violin circles, 1930's; Johnny Vick, pianist, three year contract with Hollywood Recording Company, 1947; Catherine K. Young, contralto soloist, winner of many musical contests and a scholarship to Europe.

Although many Wyandotte artists have won scholarships and honorable mention in numerous contests, only a few have been able to compete successfully on a state and national scale. Marion Pulver, high school instructor, won honorable mention for sculptured head of a Negro in the Michigan Artists' Exhibition at Detroit Institute of Arts in 1944; C. Ernest Sheppard Eddie received the Henry and Ewalds prize in this same annual exhibit in 1945 for his painting "The Doorway"; Angelo Ziroli received national attention for his sculpture piece "Civil War Soldier," unveiled Armistice Day, 1948, opposite the newsboy's shelter on Belle Isle, Detroit. He was a nationally accepted artist many years before he came to Wyandotte to make his home during the World War II years. He died in Wyandotte a week after the unveiling of the statue. Lyall T. Cross, camera study of a little girl comforting her younger brother, achieved space in the February issue of *Coronet*, 1947. Among the native born artists, Ronald Fulmer, Edward C. Bryan, and Lennon A. Thomp-

son have attracted unusual attention. Donald Fulmer, a young man of 25 confined to a wheel chair, drew murals for the large school room at the Farmington's Children's Hospital in 1941. The canvas was raised and lowered to permit him to reach the proper heights. Eighty-seven-year-old Edward C. Bryan is Wyandotte's "Grandpa Moses." He turns out many canvases in his former "Boat Works." Visitors come from some distances to view his work. Lennon A. Thompson, whose media covers etchings, oils, and water colors, has exhibited in several galleries including the Detroit Institute of Arts, six or seven times, J. L. Hudson's galleries, Scarab Club and Hanna Galleries in this area. At Grosse Pointe he won first and second prizes. In one notable Michigan Artists' Exhibit, his etching was one of the hundred out of 1,500 entries selected. In 1952 he executed an oil painting which now hangs in the foyer of Alumni Hall, Mississippi College, and which attracted favorable critical comment from numerous newspapers and magazines all through the south. The picture depicts the Director of Athletics and the spirit of the men's college football team. He also has illustrated magazine articles written by chemists at the Wyandotte Chemical Corporation.

Over the years the spotlight of national attention has been focused on: George Barr Baker, who made a reputation for himself in London, England, as a dancer specializing in the "cake-walks—a dispatch from London stated that Kipling and Sir Henry Irving were interested in Baker's work; Harry Barney, widely traveled comedian and entertainer in the United States in the 1880's-1890's; Joseph Bashore, winner of national model airplane contest, 1940; Tarrence Benbow, holder of the Fulbright Scholarship in 1951; Frank Caton, "greatest breeder and trainer of race horses in the world"—bred and trained horses for the Czar of Russia in the early 1900's; Mrs. John C. Cahalan Jr., chosen the "first woman of the year" by the archdiocese council of the League of Catholic Women—she was so honored for her many church activities including the organization of the Down River League of Catholic Women in June, 1951; Bartley J. Doyle, old time ballplayer, head of Keystone Publications Company and Bartley J. Doyle Incorporated, one of the largest business institutions in the United States; John Fisher, who built and designed the Tyler Tube Mill of Boston, Massachusetts, a great success in 1887; Virginia Fitzgerald, a Red Cross worker with the famed Chennault Fliers in China during World War II who was named "Darling of the Tigers"; Paul Giannola, elected National Director by the Michigan Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1944; George G. Guthrie, winner of the James H. McGraw award offered by the

Edison Electrical Institute for the best paper on engineering by utility employees; Reverend Warren Hall, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, awarded one of the prizes in a sermon contest conducted by the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian church on the sermon, "The Christian Patriot's Dream," 1937; Kathryn Haubrick, winner of the world shorthand contest sponsored by Gregg in 1933; William Littlewood, holder of the Fulbright Scholarship in 1953; George E. Martin, appointed first Captain at West Point, "the highest honor and the greatest he could have obtained," 1926; Al Mauren made a name for himself in theatricals under the name of N. Ward Davis in 1932; Emerson Mehlhose, nationally known glider expert; Earl Nellis, winner of the prize for the National Air Meet for Model Airplanes in 1926; Dolly Dot Parent, using the stage name of Dottie Dawn, became nationally known as an acrobatic dancer in the 1930's; Marcella Patrick, Mrs. America, 1951; Mrs. C. F. Pike, elected to many high offices in the Masonic lodge, in 1931 elected Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Michigan; Ben Rose, appointed member of state committee on Education for Citizenship, holding the honor of being the only lay person on the committee of educators; Victor Rykwalter, winner of the National Mechanical Engineer award in 1946; Beverly Stillwagon, known in Hollywood acting circles as Linda Ware in 1939; and Richard D. Tarjany, winner of indoor and outdoor prizes at International Plane Meet of model plane builders in 1947.

After the City Hall had been completed in 1881, Jerome H. Bishop, a politician himself, thought the time was appropriate to address the citizens concerning matters of politics. There were many politicians being born in Wyandotte whose talents should not be wasted or misdirected as they went forth to represent the city. His July 4 remarks entreated the attentive crowd that in politics "lies the greatest danger to the liberty of his country. As long as the people will support party and party leaders, right or wrong, so long may they expect to see fraud and corruption in public service. . . . Let the people support only good men and good measures and thus force the political parties to put forward only such measures as will commend hearty support of all intelligent and liberty loving people. . . . Let every man do his duty first as a citizen to the state, and not first as a member of the party."

There is evidence that Jerome H. Bishop's words carried great weight with the people, and the representatives from Wyandotte who have sat in the legislative halls at Lansing and Washington have reflected this

message thoroughly by word and deed in their interpretation of "government for the people, by the people, and of the people."

John C. Cahalan is the first man who comes to the attention of the people as fulfilling Mr. Bishop's philosophy literally. He was Wyandotte's number one politician until his death in 1939. In fact, he was the Democratic Party in the city. Beginning with talks and discussions around the stove in the old Cahalan Drug Store, John C. Cahalan advanced into the position of "scene mover" on a state and national scale. His career in state politics began in 1884 when he became a member of the State Central Democratic Committee. From then on he attended and wielded influence as a delegate at party conventions and by holding political appointments of chief deputy collector of Internal Revenue, gauger of alcoholic beverages for the Internal Revenue Department, and clerk of the Wayne County Court. In 1936 he was made Chairman of the State Electors which body notified Franklin D. Roosevelt of his election. In spite of the fact that his most absorbing interest was politics, he never ran for a political office in the city or state. His friends testify that he rather enjoyed making history as the man behind the throne, guiding the selection of "good men" who would support "good measures." His judgment and honesty were so widely respected that state and national leaders often sought him out either in his home or abroad for consultation. His astuteness extended so far that he was able to maintain a strong democratic advantage during periods of Republican domination. He was an old hand at playing both sides of the fence if it was a benefit to good government. Although a strong party man, "duty first to the state" characterized John C. Cahalan. As a token of the national respect, one of the Democratic Party's most illustrious members, Postmaster General James A. Farley, came to Wyandotte in 1939, a last visit. To friend or foe, Mr. Cahalan is remembered for the acme of courtesy and friendliness—the perfect gentleman. Humanitarianism was given a meaning in politics under his judicious guidance.

Under Mr. Bishop's inspirational banner, many other Wyandotters have taken their seats in the representative halls of legislature to "fight the good fight" and initiate and support measures which have "commanded the respect of all intelligent and liberty loving people." Mark Bacon served in the United States House of Representatives during World War I. In the House of Representatives in Lansing the following have answered to the roll call: Horace N. Ocobock, 1874; Ari E. Woodruff, 1893-1896, 1907-1912; Edward C. Bryan, 1895-1898; James McCloy, 1901-1902; Ari H. Woodruff (son of Ari E.), 1915-1924,

served in State Senate, 1925-1932; Frank Darin, 1926-1932; John R. McInerney, 1932-1934; Fred Gartner, 1934-1944; Charles Block, 1944-1948; Joseph Zanglin, 1948-1949; William Littlewood, 1950-1952; William Copeland, 1952-1954, re-elected in 1954.

A native from Wyandotte, a West Point graduate and holder of M.A. degree from Columbia, made a try for the presidency of the United States in 1948. Brigadier General Herbert Holdridge became the candidate prospect on the "Dixiecrat" ticket. In the last election, 1952, he maintained campaign headquarters in Detroit as titular head of the American Rally Party ticket.

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In this centennial year of 1954, 36,846 persons share the errors and weaknesses, the strength and good fortunes of the great soul of a typical American city which has offered the opportunity for the complete fulfillment of the purposes of man.

It is a city upon which all future citizens can continue to build anew—"the kind of a town" of which Abraham Lincoln spoke, "in which a man can be proud to live, a town which wants man to live in it so that it can be proud of him."

The soul of the city has revealed itself in changing moods to various personalities among the citizenry. There are those who have seen its beauty and poetry rise above the dynamic drive of practicality and industrial might. These sentiments of the poetic emotions have been penned under the name of Elva Claire:

"Overhead a pale green sky embanked by drifting clouds. Before you the broad, deep river wending peacefully on its course. Its waters, now opalescent, now jade green, now indigo, seem to murmur prophetically of a turbulent future, and again to rebel feebly in futile memory of the quiet days when only Indian canoes dipped softly into its crystal depths—days now past and gone to return no more.

"Sleepily oblivious is the river to the gluttonous smoke stacks swallowing up its shore line. Great smoke stacks of industry vying with nature's green—unwelcome interlopers belching in silent fury the invective smoke; smoke which is the transmuted spirit of departed forests; rebellious smoke which knows not whither it goes nor whence it came, yet fulfilling its destiny. Wafted thus into eternity again are the liberated giants of past centuries free once more to creation.

"Almost of the past are the peaceful days of Wyandotte.

"Almost—yet still living in the hearts and minds of its retiring pioneers."

In vibrant contrast the Chamber of Commerce has considered it fitting to represent the spirit of the City's livelier moods with a bit of a jingle in doggerel folklore:

THE SPIRIT OF WYANDOTTE

I am the spirit of bold Wyandotte,
I welcome you one and all;
And over the past our eyes we cast,
And former days recall.

Gone is the sturdy Indian Chief;
His tribe but not his will,
For the spirit brave that the Red Man gave
Is the Wyandotte spirit still.

Gone is the ox with his cart of wheat,
In the places are rail and mill
But the winning way of the early day
Is the Wyandotte spirit still.

Gone are the men who built the Town
On the shore by the old steel mill
But the plucky cheer of the pioneer
Is the Wyandotte spirit still.

The Boys are back from the fields of France
And the tyrants cease to kill
But the loyal true, Red, White and Blue,
Is the Wyandotte spirit still.

Let's tackle the busy task now, Boys,
With mind and heart and will
And the dear old Town shall have renown
For the Wyandotte spirit still.

Winifred Stoddard LeBar has spoken for the meditations of the practical and philosophical minds:

"Since then the city has grown by leaps and bounds. It has built more churches, more schools, more factories. It has built a hospital and added to it. It has a new water-works building, a new post office, a new fire station, a new telephone exchange. It has built supermarkets and automobile show

rooms. It has exchanged its street cars for buses. It has transformed the dim, drab street that was Biddle Avenue at night into a sparkling colorful thoroughfare. One who had not seen Wyandotte for a score of years would scarcely recognize it . . . but the city still retains one of the remembered features of long ago days, its whistles, factory whistles, train whistles, boat whistles. Where else within such a small area would one hear such a variety? Where else but in Wyandotte, thinks the returned exile from quieter places as he hears again the provocative voices of passing ships or the long drawn-out, seductive call of a train. . . . How astonished, then, Chief Blue Jacket would be could he return to the spot which was once his native village of Maquaqua. One can imagine him saying, Heap big change! Yes, once upon a time—and a long ago time it was—the spot on which the city of Wyandotte now stands was a beautiful, oak forest.”

The mystical Indian pauses: a bus whizzes by; a deep throated call from the funnel of a passing freighter rends the sky with one long blast; another freighter answers with two short; a distant rumble warns of a fast approaching train; two boys on bicycles slowly wend their way through heavy traffic, with a bag slung over each shoulder, upon which is printed WYANDOTTE NEWS HERALD, WYANDOTTE TRIBUNE; a familiar hymn from the chimes in the Congregational church accompanied by the tones of the Angelus in the Roman Catholic church rises into the sky bringing a serenity transcending



Mrs. Ann (W. J.) Bolton

the din and roar of busy man and his machines. Suddenly a peculiar sickening odor from escaping chemicals chokes the air; soot peppers the sidewalk beneath the feet. The Indian turns toward the cool refreshment of the Detroit River. There upon the shoreline in the same spot he glimpses the Bolton house, the sight of which floods his soul with an everlasting joy and peace. For him, historic time stands still while he recalls:

. . . The year was 1855, the day was sharp with autumn's breath. An Indian from Amherstburg had drawn his canoe up into the bay near the Bolton house, a custom of the Indians who used to come from Amherstburg to

shop for supplies in the new village of Wyandotte while their squaws waited patiently in the canoes. On this day, the cold winds cut deeper and deeper into the shivering squaw and her papoose. Kindly Mrs. Bolton, hearing the baby's distressing cry, motioned from her window an invitation to come into the warmth of the house. The Indian squaw accepted but timidly would not advance farther than the kitchen. She spoke no English but she understood that the hot peppermint prepared by Mother Bolton eased her baby's colic, and she kissed the white lady's hand in wordless appreciation. After the winter months had closed in upon the land, there followed the birthing warm spring days, the time for the Indians to return to Wyandotte for supplies. Again a knock was heard at the Bolton's kitchen door. There stood the grateful Indian squaw. In her hand she held a beaded pincushion, painstakingly fashioned during the isolated winter months, a gift for the great white lady who had helped another mother long months ago. The red hand extended to the white hand and GOD nodded that HIS message of the brotherhood of man had borne witness to its true meaning on Wyandotte's shore one hundred years ago. . . .

The sun begins to color the horizon in West Wyandotte a flaming red; the moon emerges full and serene over the Canadian shore; the mystical Indian slowly raises his arms skyward, lifts his brow to the heavens above and we hear him murmur once again

"DES-CRE-CHAS-KAI!"
(Here is everything)

PART V

EPILOGUE

WE HAVE proudly recorded the achievements of our city as it has developed over the past hundred years. Today we rise to meet the challenges of the Atomic Age fortified by traditions nurtured in the American Way of Life. Out of the past comes the echo of the strong voice and lucid mind of Edward C. Bryan repeating his Armistice Day message of November 11, 1927:

"These are the victors—thought, reason, education, will.

"Have confidence in yourselves, wear your citizenship with the proud assurance that all which it signifies of liberty and privilege, of independence and prosperity was won in the past, is maintained in the present, and will be preserved in the future by him whom God created in His own image—the average man."

CHAPTER 16

CHRONOLOGY

- 1730 Wyandott Indians establish their village of Maquaqua in the area now known as Wyandotte, Michigan.
- 1763 Pontiac conspiracy takes place on the Ecorse River.
- 1812 Battle of Monguagon fought in the area from Chestnut street to Trenton, Michigan.
- 1818 Wyandott Indians cede the land to the United States Government and withdraw to a reservation near Flat Rock.
The family of John Clark arrives and occupies the cabin of Chief Blue Jacket.
John Biddle purchases by auction a tract of land, later the village of Wyandotte, from the United States Government.
- 1835 Home of John Biddle at the present corner of Vinewood and Biddle Avenue is completed and ready for occupancy.
- 1853 The Eureka Iron Company organized by Eber Ward and others.
- 1854 Captain William Bolton delivers the first load of building supplies for the erection of the Eureka Iron Company.
Plat for the Village of Wyandotte is filed in the office of the Wayne County Register of Deeds, December 12, 1854.
- 1855 The first school, the Old Brown School, opens its doors.
The first religious congregation, the Methodist, is organized.
The first train passes through the city.
- 1856 The first trial of smelted iron is run.
John S. Van Alstyne arrives as lawyer for the Eureka Iron Company.
The first church building is erected, St. Charles, Roman Catholic, at the corner of First and Superior Avenue.
- 1864 The FIRST INGOTS OF STEEL in the United States run by the Bessemer process.
- 1867 Wyandotte is incorporated as a city by the granting of a charter by the State of Michigan, December 12, 1866. The first election held April, 1867.
The first newspaper is printed, "The Wyandotte Courier."
- 1869 The First High School is completed and opened on Oak street between Fifth and Sixth streets.
The first library service is offered from a room in the High School.

- 1870 First volunteer Fire Department is organized.
- 1871 Shipbuilding operations begin under Eber Ward.
Wyandotte Savings Bank founded by John S. Van Alstyne.
The Kirby Brothers, Frank E. and Fitzhugh Albert "Joe," take charge of the shipyard.
- 1872 Toledo, Canadian, Southern Railway gains right-of-way through the city.
Passenger service commences on the Detroit River.
- 1875 The first fire engine is purchased.
The first class is graduated from the High School.
The J. H. Bishop Company is founded.
Death of Eber Ward.
- 1877 Detroit Dry Dock Company resumes the operation of the shipyard.
- 1879 The first printing of the Wyandotte News Herald.
- 1880 The erection of the first City Hall at the southwest corner of Elm and Biddle Avenue.
Opening of the River Park Hotel.
First Telephone Exchange is placed in Calahan Drug Store.
- 1883 First Parochial School built at St. Patrick's Church.
- 1884 First spur line tracks laid on Mulberry street.
- 1885 D. H. Burrell Company factory is erected on the site of the present Wyandotte hospital.
First Ward School built on site of present Garfield School.
- 1887 Discovery of salt at 900 feet in the drilling of gas, October 14, 1887.
- 1889 Bonds for the first water works passed.
First electricity furnished by E. H. Doyle and Company.
River Park Hotel burns.
- 1891 Captain John B. Ford founds the Michigan Alkali.
Union Railway Depot completed.
- 1892 Institution of street car service to Detroit.
Reverend Joshua Stansfield and the Reverend Peter Nicholas preach their denunciatory sermons on the dance.
Wyandotte four-oar team wins the National Boating Championship at Saratoga Lake.
Close of the Eureka Iron and Steel Company.
Municipal Electric Light plant voted.
- 1893 Beals and Selkirk build a Trunk factory.
- 1897 J. B. Ford Division of the Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation instituted.
Arbeiter Society's 25th Anniversary celebration and spectacular parade.

- 1898 The Spanish American War.
- 1899 American Shipbuilding Company assumes management of the shipyard.
First hospitals, Wyandotte Sanitarium and Emergency, established.
- 1900 First free mail delivery.
Michigan Alkali Clubhouse dedicated, present building of the American Legion Clubhouse.
Pennsylvania Salt opens factory in Wyandotte.
- 1901 School Board votes to name schools after martyred Presidents.
- 1902 First gas service offered.
- 1903 First Police Department organized with John Watson as first Chief.
Death of Captain John B. Ford.
- 1904 South Detroit annexed.
City sewage system voted.
- 1905 Glenwood in west Wyandotte annexed.
- 1906 Dedication of a new high school building on Oak street, now Lincoln Junior High School.
Paving of Biddle Avenue.
- 1908 Council votes to create a Police Commission.
- 1910 Death of John S. Van Alstyne.
Present Masonic Temple constructed (first as I.O.O.F. Hall).
- 1911 Government changed to Commission form.
- 1912 Pardo's garage, the first between Detroit and Monroe, opened.
- 1914 The first Municipal hospital is opened—the John F. Eilbert.
- 1915 Carnegie Library dedicated.
- 1917 Mark Bacon, as member of Congress, votes "No" for war.
- 1919 Filtration plant for water works authorized.
- 1920 Death of Fitzhugh Albert "Joe" Kirby.
- 1922 Ford City is annexed.
Police station at the corner of Pine and Biddle Avenue purchased.
Land on river front dedicated as a park in memory of soldiers and sailors.
- 1923 Roosevelt High School dedicated.
School Board votes to continue naming schools after Presidents of the United States.
World War I Memorial Boulder on Superior Avenue dedicated.
- 1925 Government changes to Councilmanic form.
First Municipal Service Commission is appointed.
Shipbuilding statue is erected.

- 1926 Wyandotte General Hospital is given to the city by the Ford family.
Telephone building is erected.
Boating crew wins Hanlon Memorial trophy.
- 1927 Bishop Park is named in honor of former Mayor Jerome Holland Bishop.
Land on the west side is purchased for a west side park.
Boating team wins United States National Regatta.
- 1928 Death of Jerome Holland Bishop.
Eureka Viaduct is completed.
- 1929 Death of Frank E. Kirby.
Post office building dedicated.
Appointment of the first police woman, Dorothy McCabe.
- 1930 Nurses' home for Wyandotte General Hospital dedicated.
- 1934 Biddle, Eureka, and Ford Avenue taken over by Wayne County.
- 1935 City of Wyandotte receives national recognition for efficient government.
- 1938 Odd Fellows receive the gift of the former Eilbert Hospital for a lodge hall.
Salvation Army Citadel is erected.
West Side Park renamed Pulaski Park.
- 1939 New Central Fire Station dedicated.
- 1941 Dupont de Nemours announces business in Wyandotte.
Carnegie Library sold.
- 1942 Recreation Department established as an integral part of the city government.
Mark Bacon family gives home at corner of Vinewood and Biddle for a Public Library.
Michigan Alkali and J. B. Ford Division merge as Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation.
- 1943 Death of J. D. Haven.
Dedication of the Bacon Memorial Public Library.
Boating Crew wins Philadelphia Schoolboy National Championship.
Purple Heart Memorial Monument dedicated.
Wyandotte News and Wyandotte Herald are merged into Wyandotte News-Herald.
- 1944 Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation gives land for boat club near Burrell Slip.
- 1946 City Planning Commission is instituted.
First woman, Mrs. Harry J. Locker, elected to the School Board.
- 1948 Parking meters are installed.

- 1950 First woman council member is elected, Hilda Haynes.
Fred Frostic, Superintendent of Schools for twenty-five years, retires.
- 1951 Eighty-one-year-old St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church is razed.
First inter-faith banquet held in St. John's Church Hall.
- 1952 Pennsylvania Salt and Sharples Chemicals Company are merged.
- 1953 Bob Kuzava wins World Series for the "Yankees," second year in succession.
- 1954 City celebrates its Centennial.
New indoor and outdoor swimming pool is started in construction.
New Lincoln Junior High School is begun.
Soil is turned for an addition to the Wyandotte General Hospital.
Water capacity is increased with additions to the Municipal Light Plant.
City purchases land to add to Bishop Park.
Historic landmark, Down River Federal Savings Building, is razed.
Oldest building in town, the Wyandotte Savings Bank Building, undergoes complete modernization.
Citizens vote bond issue for huge school expansion program.
Death of Leo Calahan, member of one of Wyandotte's oldest pioneer families and author of the present city charter.
Mrs. Lena Bittorf Cadaret and William Busha receive the Centennial watch awards for being the oldest native born residents in the city.
Committee appointed to study plans to further annexation of territory.

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